

ANN LAKE WATER LOG

June 10, 2007

ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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**ANN SKORY
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Published and
distributed to property
owners and residences
of Ann Lake.

Proposed Village Park Survey Results

Our last newsletter contained a survey to members of the ALPOA and property owners that live on Ann Lake regarding the proposed Village Park. The results of survey are as follows.

- What type of impact do you feel a public park in the Village will have on Ann Lake?
 - Positive ~ 7 respondents, Negative ~ 25 respondents, None ~ 3 respondents.
- Do you feel a park will have a greater or lesser impact that the alternative uses for this property (property splits, commercial use, etc.)
 - Greater impact ~ 25, Lesser impact ~ 6, No impact ~ 2
- Will you support this park purchase and maintenance financially by a charitable donation?
 - Yes ~ 6, No ~ 28, Not Sure ~ 3
- Will you support this park purchase by volunteering your time in fund raising efforts?
 - Yes ~ 4, No ~ 30, Not Sure ~ 3

While this survey was helpful by giving property owners a voice, it should be noted that over 200 surveys were sent out and about 15% of them were returned. While we stated a position early in the fact finding stage of this project, the Board of Directors, as a whole, will not have a position regarding the Village project.

It is my understanding that the Park Initiative is under way, however, this writer has not been contacted regarding any activities or announcements.

Message from the President

We are back to the season that counts, Summer. It is amazing the transformation that nature provides for us. Green trees, ice changing to water, the return of the Loons and other water fowl, fishing season and much more. What is equally amazing is what a difference one property owner can make to our greatest resource. This association provides a path to awareness regarding environmental concerns, safety, Governmental issues and more. If there are questions or concerns regarding issues on our Lake or property, and you can't find an answer, a board member may be able to assist you in your search. Issues and concerns will crop up and some of them could change the entire landscape or culture of Ann Lake. Please be prepared by joining this association. As you can see from the contents of this newsletter, membership and leadership is a major concern for this association at this time. Just the presence of a strong association is a deterrent to acts that will reduce the value and quality of our property.

I will be stepping down as President of this association, working two years in this capacity for the property owners. When I was elected to this board, I was "new blood." I learned a great deal, and was very impressed by the dedication of the other volunteer board members. I am grateful of this opportunity and encourage more "new blood" to volunteer to serve on the board.

4th of July Ann Lake Boat Parade

Dress up that boat and celebrate our Independence as well as enjoying Ann Lake. See you floating around

Membership

Along with this newsletter is a membership form. 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 unique environment, that would be a bonus. If you or you know someone who is not receiving this *Waterlog*, please have them contact us via mail or phone call to any of the directors so we can add you to the list. Talk with an officer or director anytime for more information.

This association, its members, officers, and director's work collectively on maintaining a high quality lifestyle as waterfront owners. Only **30%** of the property owners are members. **We are in need of volunteers to serve on the board.** It takes so little time and the rewards are measured by the positive preservation of our lifestyle on Ann Lake. As you now know, issues that impact our Lake and Property happen so rapidly. It is always better to be prepared than to catch up and follow pending issues.

We have no nominees for open positions on the Board of Directors. This issue will be discussed in detail at the annual meeting. If you have anything you would like to contribute regarding this issue and cannot make the meeting, please contact Kim Becker or any other board member and they will present it at the meeting.

Ann Lake Water Testing Program

This is the 9th year for water testing on Ann Lake in conjunction with the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. This is a unique program of volunteers who record data from their lakes and send it to the DEQ who then compiles the data and charts each lake's results yearly. The program is so well organized and the volunteers so professional and well trained that their results and the results of a DEQ officer side by side testing with sophisticated scientific equipment vary only by 1-2 %.

From our first year in the program, 1999, when we tested every week and recorded water clarity to the present season, we have continued to monitor the quality of the lake and added new methods to assist this monitoring. Currently, we monitor water clarity weekly, dissolved oxygen bi-weekly, Chlorophyll monthly, Phosphorus early spring and early fall, have mapped the lake for weed growth and will participate in a research study of harmful algae in Michigan lakes. This program begins in May each year and continues through until mid September.

Those involved are Dick Unger, Diane and Al Minicucci, Becky Gray-MacGirr and Ted and Joni Keskey. Jane Bluhm and Shirley Drews also helped Becky with the extensive plant mapping that was done last summer. Ted and Joni Keskey have plans to travel more this year and Dave and Julie Maxon have volunteered to take their place. This is the new blood I mentioned earlier. Thank you so much Dave and Julie. I trust you will enjoy this service as much as Ted and Joni did.

Purpose of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association

- Promote the education of riparian property owners and other lake users about water quality and safety.
- Support issues, which concern the welfare of the lake including water conservation in the lake and watershed, maintenance of the quality of the water for swimming and conducive to the renewal of fish resources.
- Measure and evaluate hydrological data to make decisions and actions in the best interest of the lake.
- Promote the best interests of its members in civic matters such as taxation, zoning, property rights, pending legislation, law enforcement, etc.
- Strive to insure that individual rights should be enjoyed and protected without trespassing on the rights of others.
- Preserve Ann Lake as a natural resource and recreational area through protection and prudent use of its environs.

"Do not use around water"

This is a special warning, written clearly on the label, of Roundup weed killer. The warning is valid according to University of Pittsburgh ecologist Rick Relyea. Roundup is much deadlier than we thought. Tests concluded it killed 79% of tadpoles in a three week test. It killed 79% of young frogs and toads after one day. You may want to note that these amphibians are not only essential to the aquatic ecosystem, but also an indicator as to the health of the system. **Use Roundup responsibly. It kills more than weeds.**

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, 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.

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.

Boating Regulations

While we seem to bring this up often, it is a major concern for property owners. We encourage you to know and understand this regulation as well as convey this to your **Renters** if you have them. In order to maintain a congenial relationship with fellow property owners and share our resource with respect, review this regulation. This is a law and it is enforced.

On the waters of Ann Lake: no operator of any motorboat shall during the period from 6:30 PM to 10:00 AM, **7:30 PM to 11:00 AM** when and where daylight savings time is in effect, **operate such motorboat at high speed** (a speed at or above planing) or have in tow or should otherwise assist the propulsion of a person on **water skis, water sled, surfboard or other similar contrivance.**