



Van Etten Lake Association

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Keeping Members Informed and Involved

VELA Members:

What a great Summer and beautiful Fall! It was great to get some resemblance of normalcy back and be able to have our regular meetings in June, July and September and have our Annual Summer Picnic in August. Thank you to all our members who attended our “get-togethers”. It is always great to see everyone.

A special *Thank You* to our departing Board Members: **Betsy Dillingham** and **Dan Stock**. Betsy took over the Membership responsibilities 2 years ago and really did a marvelous job! VELA membership is at an all-time high! Betsy and her husband have moved to Florida to be closer to family. Dan generously served “another” term on the board when we needed members. He continues to be our RAB (Restoration Advisory Board) Representative, Lake Monitor and has taken over the responsibilities of putting together our newsletter. Thank you Dan!!

We welcome the new members of our Board of Directors – Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents. Welcome to: **Diane Banks** (Membership Director) and **Charles Bauer**. As always, the *Van Etten Lake Association* website has a full list of your Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and a myriad of other information of interest to our members. Check it out at (<https://www.vanettenlake.org>).

All VELA members are asked to thoughtfully consider joining one of our committees for the 2022 year. This is not only a great way to keep informed, but also make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Each one of our members has special gifts and talents they can share with all to help make VELA an even stronger community. You may contact our committee chairs for further information:

Weed Committee: Leonard Brockhahn	sbrock50@gmail.com
Lake Monitor Committee: Dan Stock	dstock48750@gmail.com
Picnic Committee: Carole Plunkey	caroleplunkey@charter.net
Membership: Diane Banks	diane@landscape.org

Our first Van Etten Lake Association General Meeting for the 2022 year will be on Saturday, June 4 - 10:00am. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. *We are only as strong and vibrant as our involved membership.*

Richard Copland
President, Board of Directors

MEMBERSHIP
**Everyone is
Invited**

Fall Membership Update

Diane Banks is the new Membership Committee Chair replacing Betsey Dillingham. VELA membership is at 370 as of September, 2021.

Diane keeps up-to-date master lists of all members and potential members. It's important to keep her informed of changes to email and mailing addresses. Please send changes to diane@landscape.org so that you continue to receive our newsletters and notices. Look for your 2022 Membership renewal forms in the US Mail in January.

Weed Committee Report

Because we had a cool spring the first lake survey wasn't conducted until late June. Weeds reaching nuisance level were found in several areas of the lake and those were treated in mid July. Survey was repeated in late July and some additional treatment was recommended and was completed in August. Eurasian Milfoil was not found during either survey.

A different product called Sea Clear was used this year to help with algae control. It was used with our July treatment. A blue-green algae bloom occurred late in the season although it affected certain areas around the lake more than others. The committee will be discussing the results of the Sea Clear treatment to decide on continued use. The complete Lake Management Report for 2021 is posted on the VELA website (vanettenlake.org)

The committee will also be working with the township over the winter on the selection of a consultant as the contract with Lake Pro has expired.

VELA PICNIC

Fun was had by all that attended the picnic. 609 silent auction tickets were sold totaling \$290. One lucky VELA member won \$130. in the 50/50 raffle. VELA provided baked beans, potato salad, ice tea, lemonade, cookies,



hamburgers & hot dogs (Klenow's in East Tawas). The 2022 picnic will be held on Saturday August 6. Save the date!

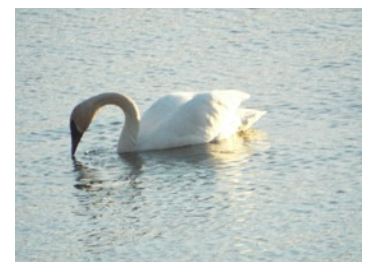


The picnic committee is always in need of additional members to help plan and welcome your input. Contact Carole Plunkey at caroleplunkey@charter.net.

VELA INBOX

Have questions about the lake association? Email any board member. You may also visit our website

www.vanettenlake.org



2021 VAN ETTEN CLMP LAKE WATER QUALITY

Dan Stock, Lead lake Monitor

SECCHI DISK CLARITY

Weekly clarity sampling which started in mid-May was completed on September 10. Average results for July through September were 5.3 feet with a current reading of 4.0 feet. This compares to an average of 6.9 ft for July/September over the past 10 years.

Mid-lake water temperature over the summer was 70.0 degrees F as compared to a 10 year average of 69.5.

PHOSPHOROUS TESTING

A Spring Phosphorus result showed a concentration of 20.5 ppb which compares to a 10 year average of 24.3.

CHLOROPHYLL A TESTING

Monthly Chlorophyll-A were taken from May through September with results expected over the winter.

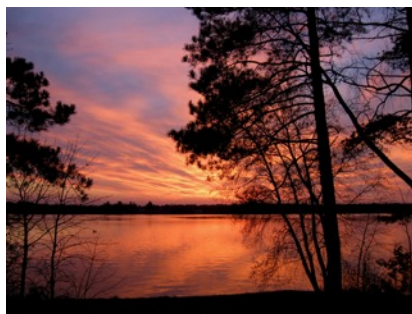
PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

We plan to sign-up for Spring Phosphorus, Clarity, Chlorophyll A and Summer Phosphorus testing again next year. Additional sampling help is needed. The once per week summer sampling starts in mid-May and runs through mid-September. If interested in helping for a four week turn, call Dan at 989-739-4239.



PRVEL normally meets on the second Thursday of January, April, July and October at 10am at the Alcona Conservation District Office located at 320 S. State St., Harrisville, unless prevented by Covid 19 protocol, the next meeting will be on January 13, 2022. Volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please contact us at 989-310-6408 or at russell.williams@macd.org.

The Pine River VanEtten Lake Watershed (PRVEL) depends substantially on financial support from VELA and individuals who wish to support our conservation projects, which ultimately benefit the water quality of VE lake. We will not be participating in the Giving Tuesday this year, so please consider a donation toward our efforts and mail to: PRVEL PO Box 680 Oscoda, MI 48750.



Van Etten Dam Information & Update

Greg Cole-Dam Operator



The 3 year Dam Inspection was completed in September. Spicer Engineering did the inspection. The report has been submitted to the Iosco County Drain Commission. The Review of the report should be completed in a couple of weeks. I have been told the Dam is in good condition. General maintenance is recommended.

The lake drawdown started the first week of November and the water level will rise in the Spring on the first of May. All these dates are subject to existing weather conditions at the time. The notice of the drawn-down was published by Fred Strauer, Iosco County Drain Commissioner on page 10A of the October 20 Oscoda Press.

RAB (*Wurtsmith Restoration Advisory Board*) Update

Dan Stock, Community RAB Representative

RAB meetings are on the second month of each quarter on the third Wednesday of those months. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 November 2021 starting at 5:00 pm. The in-person option will be held at the Oscoda United Methodist Church. Livestreaming will be available for virtual participation. An update will be issued with the livestreaming registration link once it is available.

Clark's Marsh IRA



October 18, the excavation of soil was initiated at FT002, over 20,000 tons have been removed to date. PFAS contaminated soil is being removed down to the water table to reduce the amount of PFAS that can reach the water table and eventually reach Clark's Marsh. The excavation will be refilled with uncontaminated soil. The contaminated soil is being taken to a special hazardous waste landfill downstate for disposal.

October 21, US Ecology made a start on the Clark's Marsh IRA project by initiating grading to level the land for the treatment system building expansion.

Van Etten Lake IRA

With respect to the Van Etten Lake at Ken Ratliff Memorial Park IRA, the interim record of decision and work plan drafts are complete and going through internal Air Force reviews and the Air Force hope to get these documents to EGLE for review by early November. It is hoped that construction can start in time to get all building construction completed this field season so that work may continue inside buildings throughout the winter.



NOW Happenings

Need Our Water (NOW) has held several events through the last few months including hosting a webinar on the remedial actions addressing the PFAS plumes entering Van Etten Lake. Public comments were requested to the USAF for input on the plans. Property owner participation in the public comment portion is important part of the restoration process. Also, the documentary No Defense (<https://www.nodefensedoc.com/>). was premiered at Shoreline Theater following a panel discussion. NOW members continue to meet with legislators, community members, the State of Michigan, Non-Governmental Organizations (National Wildlife Federation, Ecology Center, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Environmental Working Group etc) and other affected parties.

NOW's priorities include: 1) Contain the PFAS plume affecting Van Etten Lake 2) Provide clean municipal water to all affected residents 3) provide health monitoring and blood testing to those affected by the contamination at the former WAFB.

The Michigan PFAS Action Response Team hosted a community meeting on the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base/Oscoda Area per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) environmental investigation on November 3. Representatives from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provided presentations and updates on the status of the Remedial Investigation and two Interim Remedial Actions at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, updates on quarterly sampling at the Oscoda area sites, plans for a sediment study that will include Clark's Marsh locations, updates on the Purdue University study in Clarks Marsh, health concerns, residential well sampling, fish advisories, and the updated Clark's Marsh deer advisory. The meeting was recorded and posted with related materials and can be viewed on the website Michigan.gov/Wurtsmith.

2021-2022 Board Members

President: Richard Copland	VELABpres@gmail.com
V.P.: Janice Wilber	GJWilber55@gmail.com
Secretary: Celeste Creger	cacreger@ameritech.net
Treasurer: Leonard Brockhahn	sbrock50@gmail.com
Charles Bauer	chabauer@charter.net
Diane Banks	diane@landscape.org
Leif Lindblom	leif@lindblomfamily.com
Frank Rainey	frank.rainey@sbcglobal.net
Victoria Targosz	victoria@targoszwalker.com



2022 CALENDAR

June 04, 2022	VELA General Meeting
July 09, 2022	VELA Annual Meeting
Aug 06, 2022	VELA Picnic
Sept 10, 2022	VELA General Meeting