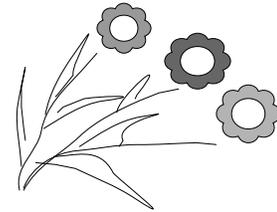


May 2013



VAN ETTEN LAKE ASSOCIATION SPRING NEWSLETTER

Keeping members Informed and Involved



President's Message:

Dear Lake Residents,

It has been a long cold winter and time to think summer thoughts as we prepare to play on our lake. Unlike one year ago, our spring never fully came this year as winter held on for all her glory. That's the bad news. The good news is that our lake water is cooler than a year ago at this time which should stem the onslaught of algae that we experienced in 2012. Some minor spring flooding resulted from a deluge of rain over our area as well as the entire United States Midwest. That situation is now under control.

The fish are getting ready to spawn. The birds are returning to our area busy building their nests. It is a great time of year to clean the debris from the lake in front of your cottage and/or home.

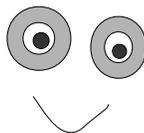
Our lake management company has secured the permits for herbicide application and mechanical harvesting and we are ready to do battle, if necessary, with the emerging aquatic vegetation. Let's hope we have a mild year for weeds and algae.

Remember to be extra cognizant of floating debris at this time of the year since our lake did overflow its banks and may have brought items out into navigational paths (see note below).

Please try to attend our first general meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 1, and offer your ideas, concerns and suggestions.

As an additional note **we need someone to handle the maintenance of our website**. This task is very easy and not very time consuming. Please consider offering your services and contact me at ronaldamathison@gmail.com.

Ron Mathison
President—VELA



Note: Visit the VELA website – www.vanettenlake.org - for **HOT NEWS** issues -e.g. lost articles floating on the lake, alerts, etc

Board Members – 2013

Pres. Ron Mathison	ronaldamathison@gmail.com
VP Carole Plunkey	caroleplunkey@charter.net
Sec. Joe Plunkey	joeplunkey@hotmail.com
Treas. Leonard Brockhahn	sbrock50@gmail.com
Greg Cole	colescottages@gmail.com
Paul Rekowski	prekowski@yahoo.com
Janice Wilber	gjwilber55@yahoo.com
Tom James	peabody56@comcast.net
Larry Evans	larryann44@yahoo.com

Event Calendar

Sat June 1 – Spring VELA Mtg
Sat July 6 – Annual VELA Mtg
Thurs July 25 – PRVEL Mtg
Sat Aug 3 – VELA Picnic – 3PM
Sat Sept 7 – VELA Fall Mtg
Thurs Oct 24 – PRVEL Mtg

Weed Management Plan - As in past years, the lake management firm that has been hired by the township to over-see weed control on the lake (Lake Pro) will make it's first survey around the end of May. Depending on the results, they will decide on a course of action and work with the VELA weed committee to bring this about. Periodic surveys will then be done throughout the season.

This year, PLM is the company that has been awarded the bid for herbicide application and will also be performing any harvesting that is deemed necessary. Posting will be made throughout the lake area for those folks affected by the weed treatment process to alert them regarding precautionary measures on using water from the lake.

The weed committee is interested in your input and you may reach Larry Evans via email with questions or comments, keeping in mind that weed control is aimed primarily at invasive species such as Eurasian Milfoil and that limited funds have to be spread out to address problems for the entire lake, not just one individual property.



VELA Membership

Membership in the VanEtten Lake Association is voluntary and we encourage all of you who are reading this newsletter but are not currently a member to join our efforts to keep VanEtten healthy.

It has been said that it takes a whole village to raise a child and in the same way of thinking, it takes all of us, combined, to work together to monitor, improve, and protect this lake we are so fortunate to have at our doorstep.

Invoices go out the first of each year to remind all current members that it's time to renew, and invite all non-members to join (\$20/yr).

If you're new to the lake, please contact Carole for a welcome packet that includes a membership form or you may mail a check to VELA, PO Box 601, Oscoda, MI and write "dues" on the memo line.

Woody Debris River Clean-Up - Last Fall, volunteers from the lake association and the PRVEL watershed rode up the Pine River with a rep from Huron Pines RC & D to inspect reported log jams and woody debris floating within the waterway. Several problem areas were cleared to make the river more navigable for small boats, canoes, and kayaks.

The general consensus of the group after tackling this project was that it would be a good idea if a small crew of volunteers would venture up the river each year to take a look at what had happened over the winter months and evaluate if any action needed to be taken to keep the river open for small craft.

With this in mind, the VELA board is considering forming such a crew to perform river clean-up. If you would be interested in being a part of such a group, please contact Ron so the board can assess if we have enough interest in the project to proceed.



Cormorant Watch: NO birds sited in April! Contact Don with any reports - 739-7017

Help with Landscaping - If you're considering doing some landscaping this season, especially along the lake shoreline, you'll be interested to learn that the conservation organization affiliated with the Pine River watershed, **Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development**, has staff that are willing to do a site visit at your home to offer suggestions that are lake friendly.

In order to be more efficient, the plan is to seek out those property owners who would like to participate and choose a date which would be good for the whole group, so that the technician can assist several people during one day's visit.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact Carole by email and include what you might be interested in learning – e.g. native plantings, buffer zone on shoreline, native trees or shrubbery, rock sea-walls, etc. You will be contacted if enough people show an interest.

PRVEL Watershed News

STILL no word from the IRS regarding approval of the application for “official” non-profit status for the watershed group, referred to as a 501(c)(3), but activities have continued as we look forward to another season.

If you missed it, the Alcona Review gave the watershed a front page article in their April 17th edition, outlining the work of the volunteer group and hopefully, it will bring out more folks who are interested in helping to keep the area (see diagram) protected and healthy.

Projects this year, as always, depend on funding and include a bank stabilization endeavor funded by the US Forest Service which will impact the Pine River as it flows through the Mikado area.

Remember, what happens up in the watershed, directly affects the conditions within VanEtten Lake, including the issues of sediment loading, unwanted nutrients, invasive species, fishing, and much more.

Please join us to volunteer your time and/or talents and consider making a donation to support the organization (checks may be made out to PRVEL and sent to PO Box 680, Oscoda, MI 48750).



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www.stanman.myshaklee.com or hisway1sf@i2k.com

CATCHING ANY FISH? Please send pictures and info to caroleplunkey@charter.net for the newsletter, or email Ron to put on the website.

Lake Monitor Report Phosphorus (P) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Testing

Two samples were taken in 2012 from Phalen, Huron (Sims) and Coppler Creeks and five samples were collected monthly from the Pine River and on Van Etten River (Lower Van Etten Creek) below the dam. The estimated quantities of P and TSS entering and leaving the lake were calculated using the flow rates at the time of sampling. The geometric mean was used to estimate quantities as the amounts of P and TSS occurring during relatively infrequent high flow periods tends to skew the results to the high side.

The combination of very light spring rain and runoff and a dry summer resulted in more phosphorus leaving the lake than entering for the first time in four years of sampling. This estimate was strongly influenced by a late summer sample taken while a considerable amount of algae was present in the lake outflow. The data continue to show more TSS entering the lake from the rivers and streams than leaving via the Van Etten River. The estimated amount of P entering the lake was **21.5 lbs/day**, 15 percent less than the four year average, and the amount of TSS was **4.72 tons/day**, 6 percent less than the four year average. The amounts of P and TSS contributed to the lake by the Pine River continue to be significantly greater than the combined contribution from the other tributaries.

HELP WANTED

If you would like to have an excuse to spend an hour or two on the lake each week on a day when conditions are nice, consider volunteering to help us take weekly clarity readings. All you need is a boat, the time to go out and some training on the procedures. We sample weekly from mid-May to mid-September and having extra samplers for one or more months would be very much appreciated. **Call Dan at 739-4239** if you would like to help us out.



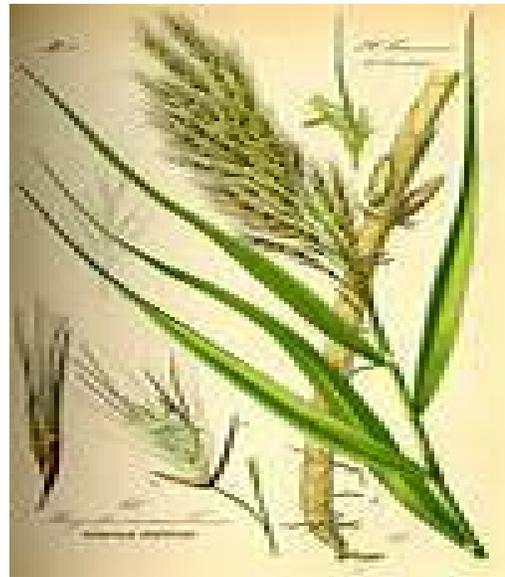
**Invasive Species
Phragmites**



This non-native plant creates tall, dense stands which crowd out native plants and waterfowl habitats, block shoreline views, reduce access for swimming, fishing, and hunting and can create fire hazards from dry plant material.

A small patch was discovered on the lake by the YMCA camp and they were contacted to inform them of it's presence and need for attention. Huron Pines RC&D will be out to the property this season to eradicate the plants to prevent further spread.

If you see phragmites on your property, please notify anyone on the VELA board for follow-up. We need to stay one step ahead of this intruder.



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(989) 362-2758

VELA INBOX ... Questions? If they haven't been answered by this newsletter, contact Ron Mathison via email

Ice Out - Those of us staying in town for the winter saw ice on the lake until mid April – crazy weather!!

To place an ad in the newsletter, please contact Carole at 739-8717