

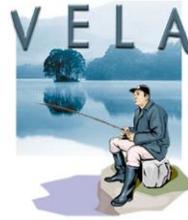
October 2015



Van Etten Lake Association

Fall Newsletter 2015

Keeping Members Informed and Involved



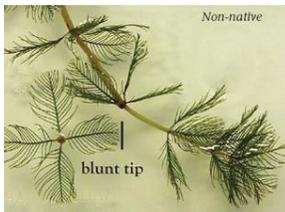
2015 Lake Management Report – Lake Pro

In April of this year, as VELA was reaching the final stages of the current 5 year Special Assessment District for Weed Control (SAD), members of the weed committee met with the lake management firm of Lake Pro to develop a plan based on the remaining funding. The priority, as always, was treatment for the invasive Eurasian Milfoil (EM), with consideration to other nuisance weeds as far as the budget would allow.

Lake Pro surveyed the lake in June, July (X2), and September and based on the results, treated several areas around the lake with herbicides in July and August, to reduce the amount of nuisance weeds plaguing boaters, swimmers, and fishermen. EM was not found anywhere until mid Aug, when a sparse patch was discovered within a treatment area, and so, benefited from the treatment. That patch will be monitored for swift action in the Spring if it returns.

Several lake residents have commented that they have never seen the lake in such good shape as this year. VELA remains committed to managing weed control for years to come through vigilant monitoring and to do so, funding is always necessary. Also keep in mind that EM is not the only concern VELA has in relation to water quality. There are other invasive species that potentially can enter our lake, since there is a public boat launch. If we let up on our aggressive approach, unwanted weeds can easily return under the right conditions and no monitoring.

In January, the township will begin the process of establishing a new 5 year SAD in order to continue the weed control program for the lake. Watch for announcements in the local newspaper for scheduled hearings to verbalize any questions or concerns you may have regarding this process.



Invasive Eurasian Milfoil



Herbicide treatment on Van Etten Lake

- Fall Tips**
- Burn permits are needed before burning leaves or brush – go to www.michigan.gov/burnpermit or call 1-866-922-2876
 - Check if it's time to have your septic pumped out – should be done every 3-5 yrs. depending on usage
 - Mulch or compost grass clippings – do not dispose of yard debris in the lake
 - Clean up after your pet when walking the “beach” area after draw down

- Lake Drawdown**
- Each year in the Fall, when the water level is gradually reduced, many nuisance weeds become visible and can easily be pulled out by hand or raked up and put on shore to dry out and then be disposed of, hopefully, in a mulch pile or else burned with other yard debris. Please take advantage of this opportunity to clean the area along your shoreline and help keep the weeds at bay, year to year.

Board Members: 2015-2016

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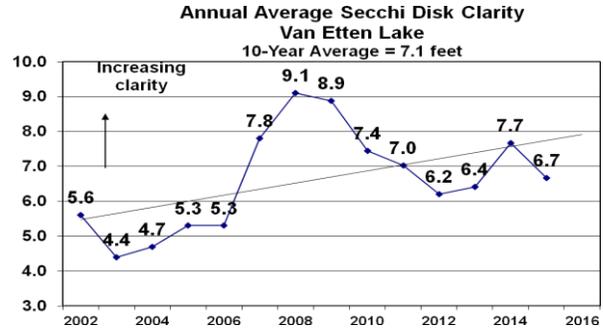
Event Calendar

- Mid November – Lake draw down**
- January 2016 – Dues invoices mailed**
- February 2016 – Iosco County Conservation District annual fishing tournament on Van Etten Lake**

Water Quality Report - 2015 VAN ETTEN LAKE WATER QUALITY RESULTS TO DATE

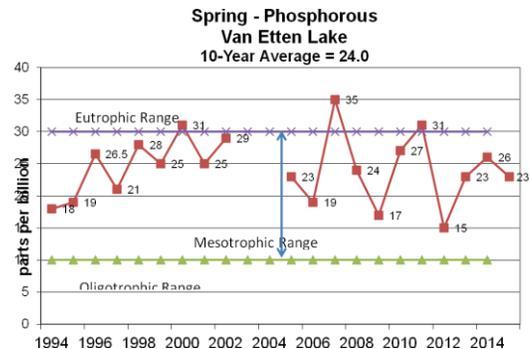
SECCHI DISK CLARITY

The average of the weekly clarity measurements taken for 2015 was **6.7 feet**. The average for the summer of 2014 was **7.7 feet**. The 10 year average is **7.1 feet**. The average water temperature mid-lake over the summer was 67.8 deg. °F. This compares to a 10 year average of 68.4 deg. °F. The clarity and temperature measurements are taken weekly from mid-May to mid-September. As indicated by the trend line on the graph, there has been a trend to greater annual average clarity in the lake over the past 13 years.



PHOSPHOROUS TESTING

The 2015 spring overturn phosphorus concentration was **23 parts per billion [ppb]**. The comparable concentration in 2014 was **26 ppb**. The spring result is thought to be a good estimate of the average phosphorus concentration in the lake. The 10 year average spring concentration is **24 ppb**. The results of the fall sampling are not yet available.



CHLOROPHYLL A TESTING

This test is intended to help to determine the relative amount of algae in the lake by measuring chlorophyll concentrations. The results from the five monthly samples taken from May through September in 2014 are not yet available. However, the algae bloom that occurred this year did not fully develop until after Labor Day and did not reach higher levels until after our clarity testing for the year was completed. Samples for toxins from the blue green component of the algae bloom were not taken.

What is a Secchi Disk?



A tool used to measure water clarity. It is 8 inches in diameter, black and white, and attached to a dowel rod, rope, or chain, marked in inches or centimeters. It is lowered into the water while observing the depth at which it disappears. Then, it is lowered more and then raised while observing the depth at which it re-appears. The measurement is then the average of the two observations. Note * Sport fish perform well in clearer water when substantial aquatic vegetation is present. Ideal clarity for aquatic plant production is generally greater than 36 inches visibility (see clarity report in above article).

Why Monitor Lake Quality?

The quality of inland lake water is influenced by many factors including:

- The lake's geology
- Basin shape
- Depth
- Water sources
- The degree of development on the lake shoreline.

Problems such as excessive aquatic plant growth, algae blooms and mucky bottoms are caused by water quality factors that lead to increased lake productivity (the amount of plant and animal life that can be produced within the lake). Excessive productivity can significantly shorten the life of inland lakes.

This is why VELA counts on volunteers to perform water quality testing throughout the season as part of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program through MiCorps – a program sponsored by Michigan Lakes & Streams – the organization that VELA pays membership to each year and whose conferences board members attend to learn all they can about current water quality issues.

Long term monitoring of things such as water transparency, phosphorus, chlorophyll, and temperature provides the data needed to recognize changes or trends in lake productivity as well as overall water quality

If you would like to be a volunteer to assist in this monitoring program, please contact

Dan Stock at dstock4239@charter.net

Pine River VanEtten Lake Watershed (PRVEL)

Busy, busy season for PRVEL, working with Huron Pines, the Conservation District, US Forest Service, Alcona County Road Commission, and volunteers to complete projects within the watershed. Four priority road/stream crossings were improved along with several identified soil erosion sites along the south branch of the Pine River – all geared toward reducing the amount of sediment and/or unwanted pollutants/nutrients entering the river. Remember, what happens “up the river” directly affects what happens on the lake, so the VELA / PRVEL partnership is very important.



Our sampling program for “bugs” in the river has helped greatly to look at problem areas throughout the watershed as well as reveal trends in water quality. The sampling dates are usually in mid-May and late September and as such, have already passed, but please keep this program in mind and volunteer for next season. Team leader is Arnie Leriche and he can be contacted at aleriche526@gmail.com . You can also visit our Facebook page to see pictures of past sampling events (www.facebook.com/pineriverwatershed).

The invasive plant species identification and treatment program continues its work to help eradicate non-natives from within our area and thus protect the natural habitat for natives as well as wildlife. A new part of that program is being discussed that would promote the selling of only native plants/shrubs by local nurseries and landscapers.

PRVEL depends on VOLUNTEERS to help plan the projects and do the work required to meet our goals. Please consider attending any of our quarterly meetings on the 4th Thursday of the month in January, April, July, and October. Meetings are held at the Greenbush Twp. Hall at 10:00 AM.



South branch Pine River - Before



South branch Pine River - After bank stabilization

Visit the VELA Website!!

VELA’s website, vanettenlake.org, is a great place to find the answers to most of your questions or ask a question yourself. Please make it a point to visit the site regularly to keep informed on what’s happening on your lake.

An advertisement for Lawrence La Voie. It features a small icon of a crane on the left. The text reads: "Lawrence La Voie", "BEACHES * SEAWALLS LANDSCAPING", "WATERFRONT SERVICES * CONSULTING", "BEACHES * DECKS * BOAT HOISTS", "2984 WOLVERINE EAST TAWAS, MI 48730 (989) 362-2758".

An advertisement for Sunnybunns Boat & Dock. It features the "SUNNYBUNNS" logo in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline. Below it, in a black box, is the text "BOAT & DOCK". Further text includes: "5400 N.US23 Oscoda, Mi 48750", "989-820-7266", "contact@sunnybunns.com", and "sunnybunns.com".

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