

Van Etten Lake Association

Spring Newsletter

Keeping Members Informed and Involved



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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!TO ALL WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES!!

Greetings Van Etten Lake friends,

I know we are all looking forward to a spring that doesn't seem to want to get here. Snowfall at the late date of April 20 has dampened our early year spirits. However, we are making plans for the summer and hoping we can get a handle on the weeds early and aggressively. I think we all need to realize that what we can do is limited by money and Mother Nature. We will never eradicate weeds (nor do we want to) but we can try our best to control them. To that end our board is committed to making your summer season an enjoyable one on the lake.

We are excited by DNRE plans to construct a fish passage (fish ladder) next to the dam. The purpose is to allow sport fish to more easily enter and exit Van Etten Lake. (see fish ladder picture on page 4) Our lake is not the best environment for fish spawning but an excellent feeding ground for all species. After the installation of the ladder the sport fish are expected to leave to spawn in the Au Sable basin and return to feed in our lake. The experts say that they will come back in better numbers and a stronger strain of fish to thin an over-abundant population of perch. The smaller perch will be eaten by the prey and a population of larger perch will emerge.

Iosco County is purchasing land around the fish passage to create a family friendly park. The early plans look quite impressive. We have concerns nonetheless that have been voiced to the authorities regarding safety, traffic and noise. We will stay on top of the issue.

We are currently finalizing the construction of a lake association website and will communicate details to you soon. Have a great and safe summer season enjoying your lake!

Ron Mathison
President

2011 Meeting Dates

- June 4-VELA Spring Mtg
- July 16-VELA Annual Mtg
- July 28-PRVEL Watershed
- Aug 6 - Annual Picnic
- Sept 10-VELA Fall Mtg
- Oct 27-PRVEL Watershed

All meetings are at 10 a.m.

Meetings located at:

- PRVEL at Greenbush Twp. Hall
- VELA at Oscoda Twp. Conf. Cntr.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ANNUAL VAN ETTEN PICNIC
SAT. ~ AUG. 6 ~ 3 p.m.



Volunteers search for "bugs" in the Pine River

Pine River Watershed Update (PRVEL)

Our volunteers met in April to discuss our ongoing efforts to improve the watershed, focusing at this time on the remaining 3 road stream crossing projects (with a major impact on decreasing sediment loading into the river), continuing to educate other community groups about our organization through our newly designed power-point presentations, monitoring our streams through our Spring and Fall sampling programs (see picture), and pushing ahead to implement a River Keepers Program to better survey areas within the

watershed that might need our attention and/or improvement. (Call Carole to sign up)

PRVEL takes it's direction from the revised 2010 Management Plan (copy available to view at the library), and in cooperation with several conservation-minded agencies, works to address the issues raised within the plan through specific projects aimed at monitoring, preserving, and/or improving the land and waters included in the 187,000 acres that drain into VanEtten Lake.

Please take the time to come to one of our quarterly meetings and see how you might lend your support to help us accomplish our goals. Call Carole at 739-8717 if you have any questions.

July Meeting Date Change

Due to the unavailability of the township conference room for our regularly scheduled meeting on July 9, a vote will be taken at the June 4th meeting to change that meeting date to **Saturday, July 16** in accordance with our VELA by-laws



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Ice Out-

Dam operator Paul Merdzinski, reported the official date for all the ice to be off the lake as Friday, April 15, 2011. We were not made aware of any serious accidents on the frozen lake this winter and are always thankful that people have shown good judgment and practiced safety measures to keep out of harm's way.



Michigan Lakes & Streams Conference

The association provided funds for two representatives to attend this year's conference in April, which was a special event, as ML & S celebrated 50 years of service toward protecting and preserving Michigan inland waters. At least one representative from VELA attends this conference every year to gather valuable information on a variety of lake related issues and/or take training in monitoring techniques

Did you know??? DNRE (Dept of Natural Resources & Environment) has been changed back to separate departments of DNR and DEQ

Phosphorus & Michigan Legislation

Spring is here and in case you need a reminder, please take the time to consider whether you actually need to apply fertilizer to your lawns here on the lake. The soil in this area most often does not need added nutrients, especially in the Spring when everything is greening up all by itself, but you can have your soil tested if you so choose, to be sure of what chemicals you need to grow a healthy lawn.

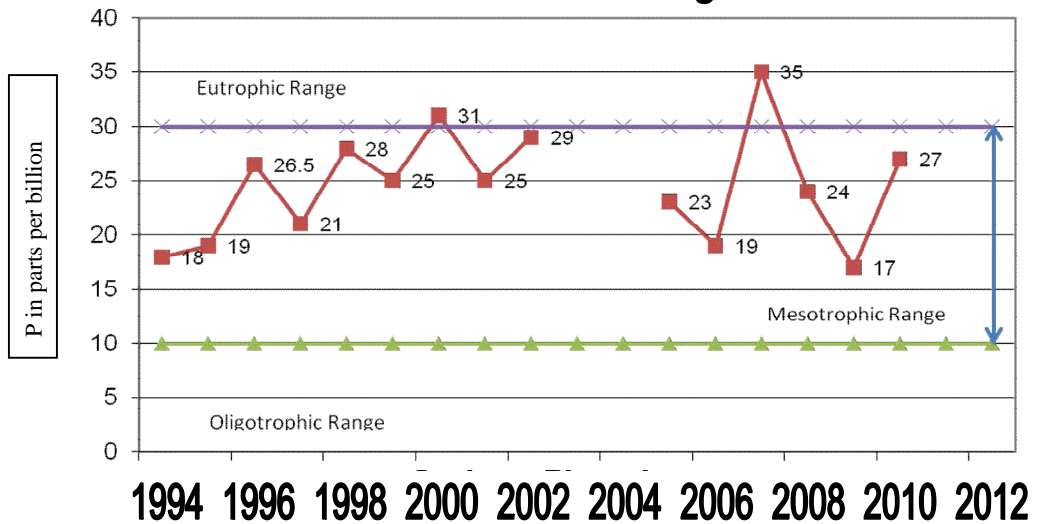
One of the association's goals has been to inform our members of the value in NOT applying lawn fertilizers (due to phosphorus content), or at least, choose the ones which have 0 phosphorus in the composition.

In January, our Michigan legislature passed a bill limiting the application of phosphorus to turf lawns. Public Act 299 reads ... "Beginning January 1, 2012 except as provided in subsection 2,3,4, or 5 (read the entire bill to view these exceptions), a person shall not apply to turf a fertilizer labeled as containing the plant nutrient available phosphate."

We encourage all who are interested in knowing more to visit the Michigan Lakes and Streams website at www.mlswa.org to see the entire bill and/or read about other riparian issues.

Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program

**Spring - Phosphorous
Van Etten Lake
10-Year Average = 25.6**



Low productive *oligotrophic* lakes are generally deep and clear with little aquatic plant growth. By contrast, high productive *eutrophic* lakes are generally shallow, turbid and support abundant plant growth. Lakes that fall between these two classifications are called *mesotrophic* lakes.

The water quality report for 2010 testing was included in the winter newsletter, with a report on the spring overturn phosphorus concentration at 27 parts per billion (ppb), which is shown above.

**Bob & Linda Gregg
and
Stan & Lynn Faultersack**

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GET CLEAN

Ron Mathison

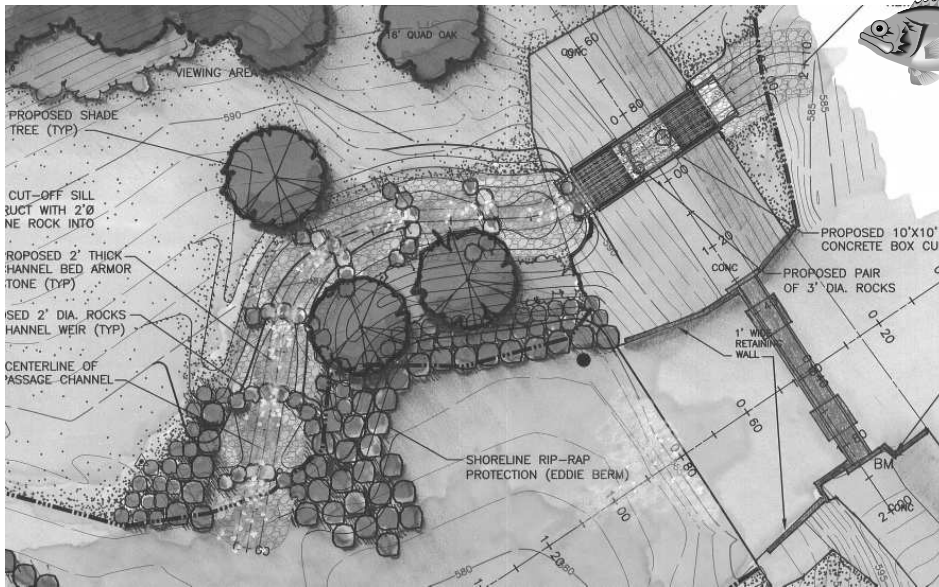
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**STATE WIDE
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335 S. State St., Suite A
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Fish Ladder



DID YOU KNOW???

Approximately 25% of the lake is less than 10-15 ft. deep, which is the maximum depth at which most aquatic plants can grow.



VELA INBOX ...

Questions? If they haven't been answered by this newsletter, contact Ron Mathison at statewideron@charter.net



Helpful Handouts – VELA has several free handouts available for our lake residents and we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this educational opportunity. Here is a sampling of the topics:

- Be Phosphorus Smart!
- Practical Tips for Home and Yard
- Lakeside Landscaping
- Waterfront Wisdom: Healthy Habits for Clean Waterfront
- Developing Shoreland Landscapes & Construction Activities
- Lake Water Quality

Contact Carole at 739-8717 for more information or pick up materials at our association meetings.

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If you would like to place an ad in the newsletters, please Email Carole Plunkey for details.