



Van Etten Lake Association Fall Newsletter



Keeping Members Informed and Involved

President's message.....

Greetings Lake Residents,

Wow, what a summer! Cool and wet but nice when we needed it on the 4th of July weekend. Our collective lawns look great. Algae was not an issue until mid-August for about 9 days. Our lake had a good year, as our weed committee attacked the milfoil early and aggressively. Although there was more milfoil this year than last, it was kept down by the treatments. It was a good year for the lake.

As you well know we garner our funds to fight weeds from a special assessment district that allows the township to collect a tax assessment each winter tax season from all lake property owners. The last SAD term is expiring with this years' collection. We have requested an extension of the SAD to last an additional 5 years. The request is for the same amount of funds so, if approved, you can expect the same amount of assessment. Some legal issues pointed out by the township attorney are requiring a re-engineering of how the funds are collected and distributed.

Based on a recommendation of the lake management company hired by the township, and input from the VELA weed committee, the township spends the SAD funds. There is wording in the SAD laws that require the township to refund unused portions of collected funds to the taxpayers. That process is unacceptable to VELA because the treatment of weeds is not a fixed expense. There are years when we need more than the \$50k of collected funds to properly deal with the weeds and some years where less is needed. That "moving target" requires a different approach and the township is working with VELA to find a solution.

The plan, as it is proposed today, is for the township to front the funds for weed treatments and then divide the yearly expenditures among those in the SAD and bill accordingly. This means that you will not have a fixed assessment each year but a varying amount. For the five year period of the SAD we will still average \$50k per year but could go as high as \$70k in any given year. Assessments will be made after a treatment year is done rather than in advance. The plan is incomplete as of this writing but the township is including our input in the process.

I hope all of you have a great Fall and less severe winter.

Are You On VELA's Email List? If you would like to be included in email notices generated by VELA, and you are not currently on the list, please email Ron Mathison .

Ron Mathison, President



EVENT CALENDAR

Thurs: Oct. 23 - PRVEL Mtg
Greenbush

Mid November - lake draw down

Jan: 2015 - Dues Invoices mailed

Board Members:

Pres:	Ron Mathison	ronaldamathison@gmail.com
Vice Pres:	Joe Plunkey	joeplunkey@hotmail.com
Sec:	Carole Plunkey	caroleplunkey@charter.net
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
	Celest Creger	cacregerameritech.net

A Good Time Was Had By All!

August 2nd turned out to be a great day for a summer get-together at Ken Ratliff Park Pavilion for all those who came to enjoy the weather, food, fun, prizes, entertainment, and visit with friends. A new menu was chosen for this year's picnic, pulled pork and chicken, and as always, lots and lots of good "potluck" dishes. The silent auction was very well received, so folks could take a chance on winning a prize they picked themselves, and money prizes were also awarded in various categories (e.g. the oldest person attending) plus the 50/50 drawing. Other new additions were the magician, who entertained ALL of us, not only the children, and adult games with prizes.

Plans are already underway for next year's event, with the hope that even more people will want to come out and join in the fun with friends from around the lake.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors for Prizes

- * Discount Tire (Tim Schafer)
- * Lakewood Shores Golf & County Club
- * Shirley & Leonard Brockhan
- * Tim Kellstrom
- * Rogers Foods & Hardware



Visit the VELA Website!!

Our lake association's website, vanettenlake.org, is a great place to find the answers to most of your questions about lake issues and/or ask a question yourself. This is just one of the ways that the board tries to keep you informed and a lot of effort goes into making it user friendly.

This is the place to look for "Hot News", which may be related to things like restrictions due to weed treatment, lost articles, or the like; or watershed news; or monthly water quality results; or weed control reports; or minutes for meetings you may have missed.

Please make it a point to **check out the new look** and keep informed on what's happening on your lake.

Educational Materials Available through VELA

One of the ways that the lake association tries to help our members become more informed regarding a variety of lake issues is through educational brochures and handouts. A sample of these materials is always available at our VELA meetings, held three times a year, and some are included in our welcome packet that is given to our new lake residents upon request. But many more are available and just require you to call or email to get the information of a subject of interest to you.

Examples include: Lakeside Landscaping and Lawn Care; Please Don't Feed the Waterfowl; Septic Systems and Water Quality; Are You Observing the 100 ft Rule?; Riparian Rights in Michigan; Shoreline Greenbelts; Practical Tips for Home and Yard; your New Water Well; Irrigation for Home Lawns - and many more.

Please contact Carole Plunkey if you wish to receive more information on a particular topic and keep abreast of all the things you should know when you live on a lake.

\$\$\$ Funding for the Future through the Endowment Fund \$\$\$

Endowment funds are developed to ensure monies are available for a specific purpose for the long term benefit of the designated recipient – in our case, the lake. The VanEtten Lake fund continues to grow – slowly, but it is growing. The current spendable amount is \$1,772. Obviously, the more folks who donate to the fund, the more money will become available for lake quality projects. A few ideas have been surfacing on how to best utilize these funds, keeping in mind the primary purpose, which is to directly benefit the water quality, fish, and/or wildlife associated with VanEtten Lake.

Please consider making a donation to this investment in the future of our beautiful lake – and if you have specific ideas on how to best utilize the money available, please contact any board member. Checks can be made out to Losco County Community Foundation and mailed to PO Box 495, Alpena, MI 49707 - write VanEtten Lake on memo line.

D & L Shrinkwrap & Docks
989-820-7266

Tim Kellstrom
Derek Goslee
5400 N US 23
Oscoda, MI 48750

M & G PROPERTIES
Martin Gayeski
5680 F41
989-739-2396

Mini Storage Units
Outside Storage Year -Round

Contact Carole Plunkey (739-8717) if you wish to place an ad in the newsletter.

LakePro Report

The lake management firm, LakePro, performed surveys of the lake on June 12, July 10, and August 28 and gave results to the weed committee, who then sent their recommendations for treatment to the township board for approval. Treatments were done on June 18 and August 4, and totaled 83.5 Acres for Eurasian Milfoil (EM), 54.5 acres for nuisance native plants, and 5 acres for nuisance algae growth.



The report indicates that on a lake as large as VanEtten, it is unlikely that total eradication of EM will ever occur, however, there has been a significant reduction in plant densities and elimination of some of the "normal" growing areas for the plant. Lake Pro was more aggressive in treating the EM this year than in any previous year, hitting every area they found the plant, regardless of plant density. They also increased the application rate of the herbicides to provide better long-term control of the plants.

During the second treatment, they were very aggressive in attacking the nuisance plants all around the lake, allowing for better boat passage.

The August survey found some cyanobacteria (algae) floating in the lake, but not as pronounced as last year. Since it was late in the season and the algae would be waning, no benefit to the lake was determined and testing was not done.

Pine River VanEtten Lake Watershed News (PRVEL)



Work has begun on the AuSable/Pine River Restoration Project, mainly in the area of invasive species monitoring and treatment (on the 80 acre site just north of the mouth of the river where it enters the lake), with plans in place to complete a bank stabilization along the south branch of the Pine before the end of this year. The proposed projects involve both the AuSable River watershed and the Pine River watershed. Often, work is dependent on the completion of the permit process and/or engineering problems, and the work does not get completed as fast as we might want it to. That being said, the plans are still underway and the grant allows us until the end of 2015 to complete the projects, including the 2 proposed road stream crossings in Alcona County.

Water quality within the watershed remains good to excellent, based on results from the sampling programs conducted each season. There are still many areas of the river with substantial log jams and/or murky waters that the board continues to review for possible projects as funding and /or manpower allows.

Power point educational presentations continue to be one of the ways that PRVEL uses to spread the word on what is being accomplished within the watershed and is given to various organizations, community groups, school classrooms, and local township officials throughout the year.


PRVEL watershed is featured on the VELA website, Facebook, huronpines.org, and will soon have a spot on the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments website. Donations are always welcomed and all monies go toward projects or materials (may be mailed to PRVEL, PO Box 680, Oscoda).

If you would like to receive the twice a year PRVEL newsletter, please email your contact info to Dan Stock at dstock4239@charter.net and please mark your calendars for our next regular meeting, Thursday, Oct 23 -10 am at Greenbush Twp Hall.

VELA INBOX ...

 Questions? If they haven't been answered by this newsletter, contact Ron Mathison at ronaldamathison@gmail.com

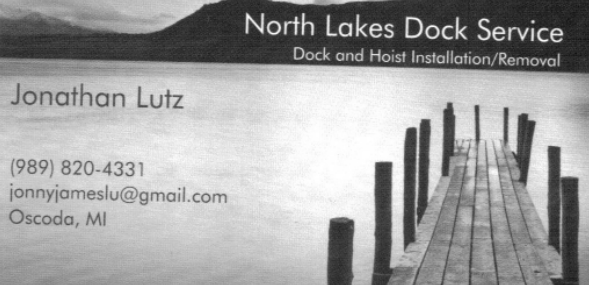
Did you know??? The DNR deposited 82,769 walleye fingerlings into the lake in June/2014. The fish averaged about 2.25 inches and came from a rearing pond near Auburn, MI .




Lawrence La Voie
BEACHES * SEAWALLS LANDSCAPING
WATERFRONT SERVICES * CONSULTING
BEACHES * DECKS * BOAT HOISTS
2984 WOLVERINE EAST TAWAS, MI 48730 (989) 362-2758

North Lakes Dock Service
 Dock and Hoist Installation/Removal

Jonathan Lutz
 (989) 820-4331
jonnyjameslu@gmail.com
 Oscoda, MI



Invasive Plant Species

Unless you have an interest in what's growing along the roadsides and rivers or within the woodlands in Michigan, you probably aren't aware of what invasive non-native plants species are, or why anyone would want to get rid of them. Plants that are alien, or not part of Michigan's biodiverse ecosystems, can be a serious threat by out-competing native species for food and habitat, often pushing them out or even eradicating native plants over time. This creates a negative domino effect on all wildlife within the system as well.

Michigan has an extensive network of organizations who are actively working to locate and manage these emerging plants before they get to numbers that are extremely difficult to eradicate.

Individuals can help by keeping their eyes open for plants such as those listed below, and report their siting's to the DNR.

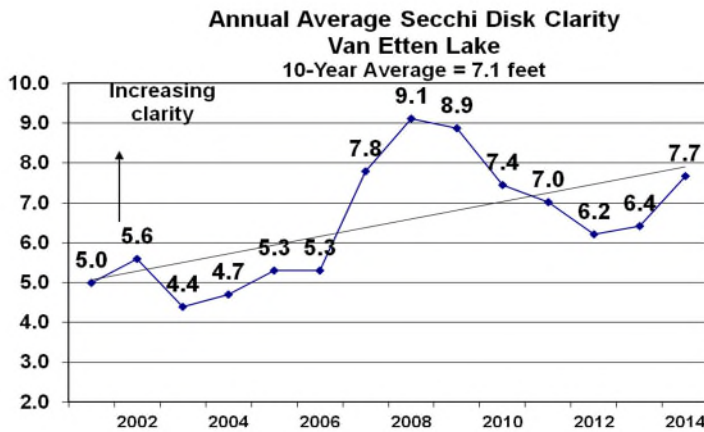


Pictured left to right: Knapweed, Phragmites, Mullein, White Sweet Clover, Purple Loosestrife.

Lake Monitor Report 2014 VAN ETTEN LAKE WATER QUALITY RESULTS TO DATE

SECCHI DISK CLARITY

The average of the weekly clarity measurements taken for 2014 was **7.7 feet**. The average for the summer of 2013 was **6.4 feet**. The 10 year average is **7.1 feet**. The average water temperature mid-lake over the summer was 67.5 deg. F. This compares to a 10 year average of 68.7 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 2014 spring overturn phosphorus concentration was **26 parts per billion [ppb]**. The comparable concentration in 2013 was **23 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 **24.0 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, while an algae bloom occurred again this year, it started later in the summer and did not last very long. As indicated by the clarity sampling and as the bloom was not unusually heavy, the scheduled sampling for toxins from the blue green component of the algae bloom was canceled.