

Summer
2016

Designed and published
specifically for waterfront
property owners and
enthusiasts



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Our Favorite... Summertime!



Summer is in full swing, and I hope you have been taking advantage of the wonderful weather and enjoying your lake. Some new and exciting changes are happening with *The Michigan Riparian* magazine, and we will fill you in with more details in the fall 2016 issue. Stay tuned.....

This issue of *The Michigan Riparian* is filled with a variety of topics from underwater adventures on page 11 to the importance of forming a lake association. Cliff Bloom breaks it down for you on page 9.

Lake VanEtten is our featured cover story. It showcases many pictures from the past as well as current happenings. Lake VanEtten's story will take you on a leisurely stroll down memory lane. They openly share the great success stories of why their lake association is thriving. We think you will enjoy it.

Many of you knew Pearl Bonnell. For many years she played a very significant role in the development of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations and *The Michigan Riparian*. Sadly, she passed away in April, and *The Michigan Riparian* is paying special tribute to her on page 16.

Have you ever heard of CISMA? There is an article on page 28 that explains what it is and its role regarding invasive species. Collaboration of like-minded state, federal, local and individual efforts are leading to more effective management of this ongoing challenge. Learn how you can get involved and help make a difference.

As you can imagine, there are many individuals and lake associations that are especially committed to good stewardship of our precious inland lakes and streams. ML&SA believes their dedication should be recognized. See page 25 to learn more about what has been accomplished through their efforts.

As always, we look forward to receiving more of your pictures and stories. Keep sending them our way. (By the way, check out the wedding pictures in the Love My Lake feature).

Happy summer!

-publisher, Sharon Wagner
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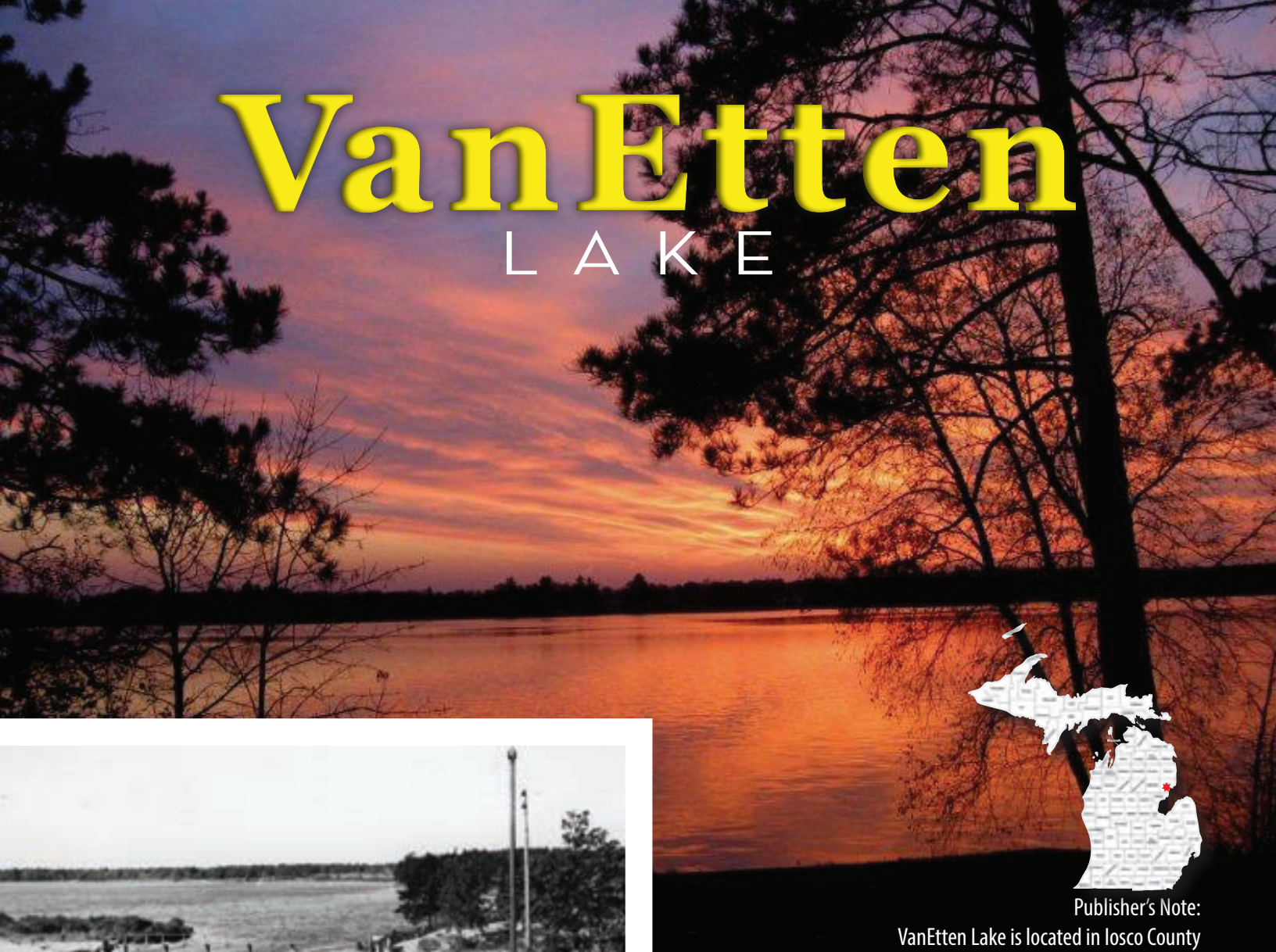
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VanEtten

L A K E



Publisher's Note:

VanEtten Lake is located in Iosco County



VanEtten Lake looking north, November 17, 1903



The Old Dam on VanEtten Creek near VanEtten Lake Lodge.

History

Historical records dating back to the 1800's indicate that VanEtten Lake (initially called Pine Lake), was an important part of Michigan's booming logging industry. Cited as "a small lake about four miles long, where there is a powerful water privilege," in a memoir from 1882 (Memoirs of a Brilliant Woman by Hodridge Collins), it was utilized by the saw mill barons to help float valuable White Pine and Norway Pine logs from the Pine River watershed above the lake, down to their barges on Lake Huron by what is now Ausable and Oscoda townships. By damming the river, an impoundment was made - "a body of water confined by an enclosure" - but it has always been viewed as a natural lake.

At the time of Michigan's statehood in 1836, the entire region was still wilderness; but when valuable timber was discovered in the mid 1840's, money was to be made and many "boom companies" came to the northeast area, including one owned by Levi VanEtten. The name of the lake changed to VanEtten in tribute to his influence on the area.

A newspaper article from 1981 (Oscoda Press - Neil Thorton) reported that field notes from 1840 made reference to a dam on

(Continued on page 6)

VanEtten

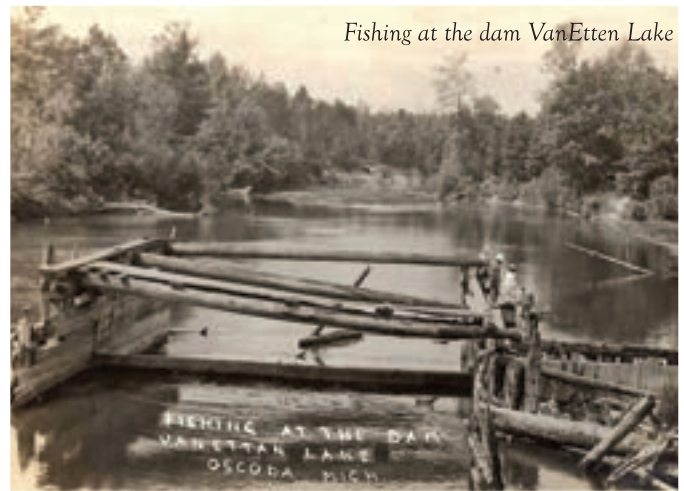
L A K E

(Continued from page 5)



Camp Nissokone - Present Day - VanEtten Lake

VanEtten Lake and further evidence of this structure's existence was found in a personal journal from 1873 (The Michigan Grayling – Thad Morris) stating “... on this last stream (VanEtten Creek) there is a sluice dam.” An updated version of that dam is still in place at the south end of the lake (constructed in 1947) and helps to regulate the water level year round—a challenge with all the variables that could affect water levels (rain, melting snow, wind, current, etc.). The dam prevents flooding conditions or conversely, “dry docking”. The principle spillway consists of two 2 ft.-wide gates which are controlled by the dam operator who makes daily checks.



Fishing at the dam VanEtten Lake

Lumbering of the Pine River watershed continued into the early 1900's, essentially depleting the forest lands. In 1911, a huge fire swept through the existing towns, leveling everything in its path, including the lumber yards and homes. With a downturn in the economy then, few people remained in the area; and it took several years to re-build. Without attention, the dam slowly deteriorated. However, as interests turned more toward tourism and sport fishing, the lake became a favorite spot for many people. They would soon band together to address their concerns about the dam and the lake in general.

Out of this move to “go north”, several resorts were built in the area along with individual cabins; and the lake soon boasted a lake lodge (1916). It was popular



Lake VanEtten Lake Lodge



Camp Nissokone, YMCA camp for boys

with tourists as well as army personnel at the nearby military base which was constructed a few years later (Camp Skeel-1923) along with a YMCA Camp.

VanEtten Lake Lodge

Prominent lumberman F.G. Crowley built the original lodge in 1916 which was destroyed by fire in 1924. Re-opening in 1925 with a new 60-room structure, it became the largest and most popular resort hotel in Eastern Michigan. Thirty cottages were available as well, all with modern conveniences of the time. Amusements included dancing with a full orchestra, roller skating, golf, tennis, horseshoe courts, horseback riding, fishing, boating, and swimming. Over the years, the Lodge was sold to other owners until the end of WW II, when it burned down again and was not re-built.

YMCA Camp Nissokone

In the early part of the 20th century, the Detroit based YMCA began looking for land to the north to provide a more rugged, outdoor experience for city youth. Discovering the beauty of the area around VanEtten Lake, they purchased a site in 1914. The president of the organization, Philip Gray, then purchased a large area adjoining the camp to build a summer home. He invested his own money to build additional buildings and purchase equipment for the camp, making it one of the finest around. His property and all the buildings were given to the YMCA after his death, and many are still used today.

Wurtsmith Air Force Base

Originally called Camp Skeel (1924), the military base was used by fighter aircraft from Selfridge Army Air Field near Detroit to conduct winter maneuvers to test aircraft and



B-52 Stratofortress Bomber - Wurtsmith Airforce Base - VanEtten Lake (1958)

supplies in very cold environments as well as for gunnery practice. VanEtten Lake was used to test landings and take-offs on the frozen surface. This continued until WWII, when the land was expanded to include two runways, hangar, officers' quarters and mess, and numerous support facilities. In 1953, the base was renamed Wurtsmith in honor of an outstanding war hero from Michigan. In 1955 it became a permanent Air Force Base-home to B-52 bombers. Its mission was to develop and maintain the capability to conduct strategic warfare in an emergency war order (SAC base). The unit was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis and saw duty in Southeast Asia and Vietnam.

Wurtsmith Air Force Base owned the beach area on VanEtten Lake and opened it to the public for special events. As a number of base personnel were members of the VanEtten Lake Association (formed in 1981), the beach was open to those members and the base supported many of the group's functions. When the base closed in 1993, the beach park was transferred to the township, and a short time later was re-named Ken Ratliff Park in honor of a founding member of the lake association and is open to the public. The boat launch site is a busy place year round as fisherman

(Continued on page 18)



Ski-equipped Curtiss P-1 Pursuit bi-wing fighters in Winter - Van Etten Lake (1924)



ASK THE EXPERTS

If you have a question about water related issues, riparian rights, and/or lakes and streams, etc., let us know by email or snail mail.

Email: swagner@mlswa.org

Mail: The Michigan Riparian
300 N. State St., Suite A,
Stanton, MI 48888



Common Arrowhead

Question: Why should lakefront property owners strive to preserve and protect the native aquatic plants that often grow at the water's edge and on their riparian bottomlands?

Answer: Native aquatic plants are essential to promoting and sustaining water quality and bio-diversity within thousands of moderately productive inland lakes in Michigan. Representing the most biologically productive areas on earth, the abundance and diversity of native aquatic plant communities are an increasingly recognized indicator of the overall health of your lake. Capable of surviving for decades within inland lakes possessing stable, clear-water ecosystems, native aquatic plant communities contribute to the overall health of your lake by helping to sustain water clarity, by consuming or storing nutrients that might otherwise be available for undesirable algae growth, and by creating ecological conditions that are conducive to maintaining moderate biological productivity levels.

Vegetative habitat established by aquatic plant communities also provides critical nesting areas and organic building materials as well as food for a diverse array of fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds. Due to their vital importance in supporting and sustaining healthy freshwater fish communities, aquatic ecosystem bio-diversity, contributing to the stability of high quality, moderately productive lakes, and helping to minimize shoreline erosion, Michigan law prohibits lakefront property owners from removing native aquatic plants from shorelines and/or riparian bottomlands without first applying for, and receiving, a conditional permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Throughout the inland lakes of Michigan, native aquatic plant abundance and diversity have been significantly reduced since the late 1940's by colonization of invasive submerged aquatic plant species such as curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, and in more recent years, by invasive Starry stonewort. Invasive aquatic plants often possess aggressive growth patterns that threaten the viability of native aquatic plant communities by forming dense monotypic mats that are capable of effectively depriving native species of critical habitat and vital resources such as nutrients and light. In addition to the considerable threat posed by the increasing presence of aquatic invasive plants, losses to Michigan's native aquatic plant populations have also been exacerbated in recent decades by intensive inland lake shoreline development as lakefront property owners have re-claimed increasingly large segments of near-shore natural habitat for swimming, installation of larger docks, and/or other personal recreational pursuits.

By Scott Brown
ML&SA Executive Director

Our experts include our riparian attorney, a biologist, a limnologist, an engineer, a college professor and a state agency official. They look forward to responding to your question.

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By Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.
Bloom Sluggett Morgan, PC
Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.bsmlawpc.com

"The Freedom to Assemble..."

This issue's column involves one of the basics of riparianism – lake associations.

Since most lake associations are voluntary and have little power, why should property owners get together to create a lake association and potentially incorporate the same? And, why should a riparian voluntarily join an existing association? There are many reasons for incorporating or joining a lake association, including the following:

1. To organize lake residents and property owners for common benefit and goals.
2. To incorporate in order to be able to engage in certain functions and limit potential liability.
3. To lobby local government officials.
4. To speak for the lake community in one unified voice.
5. A group representing most property owners around a lake has more clout and prestige than individual property owners.
6. To sponsor events.
7. To hire services for the lake, including weed treatment and the stocking of fish in the lake.
8. For lake communications.
9. To serve as a social and benevolent group.
10. As a vehicle used to resolve common problems.
11. For intra-lake communications.
12. To be able to have "standing" to file a lawsuit involving an important lake issue.

One of the common complaints by members of lake associations is the conduct of association meetings. Some lake associations conduct meetings better than others. As an initial matter, how many meetings of the general membership of a lake association should be held each year? There is no specific requirement in Michigan statute or appellate case law apart from having at least one meeting each year. Typically, the date, time, and place of the annual meeting of the membership, as well as special or other meetings of the association's membership, will be covered by the lake association's bylaws. The same is true with regard to meetings of the board of directors of the lake association.

The location of membership meetings is also typically covered by the lake association's bylaws. Must the bylaws require that membership meetings be held at the lake or within a specific distance of the lake? No. The bylaws can be drafted to allow membership meetings to occur at a variety of different locations as well as any place specified by the board of directors for the lake association.

Typically, the president of the lake association will preside at all meetings of the lake association's membership. It is also fairly common for a "watered-down" version of *Robert's Rules of Order* to be utilized at lake association membership meetings (as well as meetings of the board of directors), whether required by the bylaws or simply by practice.

It is usually recommended that *Robert's Rules of Order* be utilized gingerly at membership meetings and that the chair of any such meeting not slavishly follow *Robert's Rules of Order*. Unfortunately, *Robert's Rules of Order* can be, at times, complex and confusing. High drama involving intricate parliamentary procedures at lake association meetings is not a good idea. While *Robert's Rules of Order* should be followed in general, practicality and common sense should ultimately prevail.

Unless required by the lake association's bylaws, minutes of membership and board of directors meetings are not required *per se*. Nevertheless, it is always prudent to take, approve, and keep good minutes. There is no specific format, required length, or technique for drafting minutes. Of course, the minutes should reflect a general overview of what happened at the meeting, but certainly should not be a word-for-word transcript of everything that occurred at the meeting. A loose rule of thumb is that there should be one to two pages of minutes for each hour of a meeting. For any motions made, the minutes should record who made the motion, who seconded the motion, what the motion stated, who voted in favor of the motion, who voted against the motion, and who abstained. Of course, if the membership votes on a particular item, the actual votes will be recorded by number, not by name unless the bylaws require otherwise for a specific type of vote. The minutes of a body are approved at its next meeting by motion and approval vote. Draft minutes need not be read out loud at a meeting before approval (unless you favor long meetings!). Final approved minutes should be kept forever.

The president should keep tight control over any meeting. All comments should be directed only to and through the chair and not at any individual board member or other association member directly. The president rules on parliamentary issues, subject to being overturned by a majority vote of the board of directors or the membership, whichever is applicable. It is also often prudent for the board of directors to adopt written rules of procedure regarding public comments at meetings (for example, can members comment on every agenda item throughout the meeting, is there a time limit on member comments for each item, etc.).

It is also important for the bylaws of a lake association to specify authority – which association decisions do the membership have

(Continued on page 12)

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Nancy Washburne

New Website to Showcase Michigan's Magical Underwater World

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East Lansing, Michigan
(PR MediaRelease) April 26, 2016

"Michigan has been blessed with some of the most spectacular natural resources on our planet; and yet, very few people are aware of the magical world that exists only a few inches below Michigan's inland lakes and rivers," said Nancy Washburne, author of the Snorkeling Guide to Michigan Inland Lakes.

After 20 years of field research, snorkeling over one thousand Michigan inland lakes, dozens of rivers, and taking over 700 hours of underwater video, Washburne will be sharing some of these amazing images starting this week. The new video section of her website, snorkelmichigan.com, will showcase a fascinating array of 49 different species of fish and turtles being themselves in their natural habitats.



Nancy's work as an underwater videographer was featured during the 30th Anniversary of Our World Underwater, alongside the work of five-time Emmy winning cinematographer and underwater film producer Stan Waterman. It was also featured on the popular Michigan Out of Doors TV on PBS. Washburne was also asked to present her Michigan underwater videos at the Shedd Aquarium; the Tennessee Aquarium; the 2002 Convention of the North American Native Fishes Association; the Michigan DNR Fisheries Group Symposium; the Illinois Council of Skin and Scuba Divers; the Quiet Water Symposium; the East Lansing Children's Film Festival; and dozens of Trout Unlimited, Audubon, and Nature Centers all over Michigan; along with Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, banking



conventions, and 66 Michigan bookstores, including all Barnes and Noble bookstores, Borders and many independent bookstores and dive shops.

"We have been blessed with these magnificent resources, and it is our duty to preserve them for future generations in their most pristine form. I want our children to be exposed to this magical world. Once they know it, they will love it and they will protect it. That is why I want everyone to discover the enchanting beauty of Michigan's natural aquariums and observe nature at its best," said Washburne. "I want to encourage people to come face-to-face with a multitude of species in their own habitats; fish and turtles galore being themselves in beautiful surroundings. Imagine being able to witness the spawning rituals of several species, observing the miracle of life unfolding right before your eyes. If you can breathe, you can snorkel," Nancy concluded.

The beauty of snorkeling is that it applies to the entire demographic spectrum, starting with the educational benefits for children and young kids, and the fabulous therapeutic and recreational benefits for everyone. Parents are going to love when their kids put their techno gadgets aside for a little while and get up close and personal with nature. Another fabulous thing is how

(Continued on page 13)

"The Freedom to Assemble..."

(Continued from page 9)

authority over versus decisions which can only be made by the board of directors.

The association bylaws should normally specify what prior notice must occur (and to whom) for membership and board of directors meetings. Typically, a written notice will be sent out before a meeting specifying the time, date, and place for a meeting, what type of meeting is involved, and what will be addressed at the meeting.

The president should "keep matters moving" at any meeting. Once a meeting has run about 1-1/2 hours, people begin to "run out of steam." Conducting meetings late into the night or for too long is generally not advisable.

Every association meeting (whether the meeting involves association members or the board of directors) should have a written agenda available either before the meeting or at least at the beginning of the meeting. Of course, the agenda can be amended at the start of the meeting. A typical agenda could include the following:

- a. The chair (usually, the president) calls the meeting to order.
- b. Attendance is taken (either by a roll call or by the secretary simply noting who is present).
- c. Pledge of Allegiance (optional).
- d. Vote to approve or amend the agenda.
- e. Approval of the minutes of the prior meeting.
- f. Public comments regarding matters not on the agenda (optional).
- g. Committee or subcommittee reports.
- h. Old business.
- i. New business.
- j. Final public comment.
- k. Board member comments.
- l. Setting the time, date, and place for the next meeting (optional).
- m. Vote to adjourn/close the meeting.

I will address other common lake association issues in future Attorney Writes columns. ●●●

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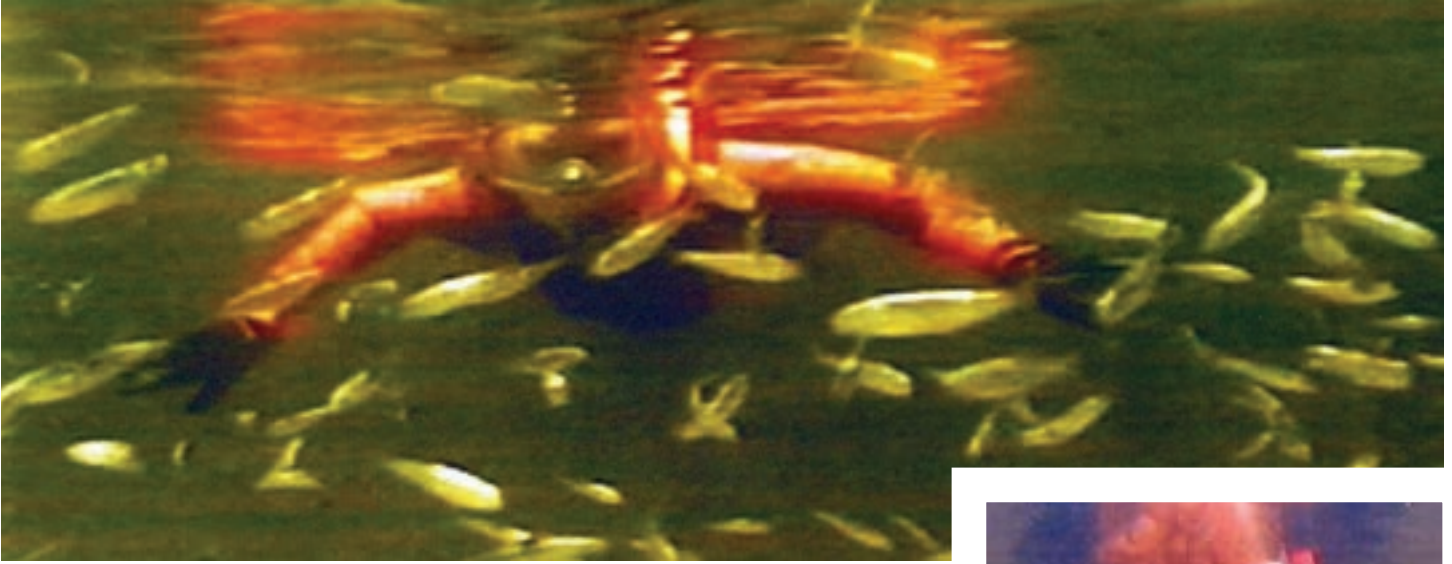
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New Website to Showcase Michigan's Magical Underwater World (Continued from page 11)

accessible and inexpensive snorkeling is for the people who live in Michigan; for them, Washburne points out that magical scenes like the ones she is showing on her videos, are coming soon to a lake near you.

NANCY WASHBURNE has created a unique book that fills a void for snorkelers worldwide and especially in Michigan. A lifelong resident of Michigan and experienced scuba diver in some of

the most exotic dive locations of the world, the author discovered that there was no information on Michigan's inland lakes from the snorkeling point of view. Although her book surveys all of the State's public access lakes to support snorkeling as a leisure activity, it also contains a wealth of information including lake size, fish, aquatic plants and more. ● ● ●



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Seeking Keweenaw Carnivores

Gratiot Lake Conservancy Fall 2015 Newsletter
www.GratiotLakeConservancy.org

Biologist John Yunger has posed the question: "Why is there a very high diversity of carnivores in the Keweenaw?" He notes the number of different species of carnivore in the Keweenaw rivals tropical regions which are touted for their biodiversity. So, how is it possible that weasels of many kinds, black bears, coyotes, gray wolves, gray foxes, red foxes, bobcats, and cougars can coexist with such a degree of habitat and diet overlap?

John proposes an on-the-ground, citizen science based survey of the area to help understand these predatory mammals and their behavior. Volunteers for this project would walk on preset routes called transects to gather observations of mammal signs including photos of actual mammal sightings, tracks, rubs, fur, but especially scat (a.k.a. feces). Records of observations could be uploaded immediately using the



smartphone app iNaturalist. If you have a smartphone, both photos taken and text information entered could be submitted onsite, that is if there is a live connection! Collections of scat might be required from time to time. Such things as diet, physical health, and even identification of particular individuals can be determined from analysis of scat. This project would require volunteers with a love of nature and a desire to contribute to further understanding of Keweenaw natural history. Volunteers must be able bodied enough to walk out-of-doors, and preferably have a smartphone and willingness to download and learn how to use the iNaturalist app.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact John directly at jyunger@govst.edu and copy me on the email director@GratiotLakeConservancy.org.



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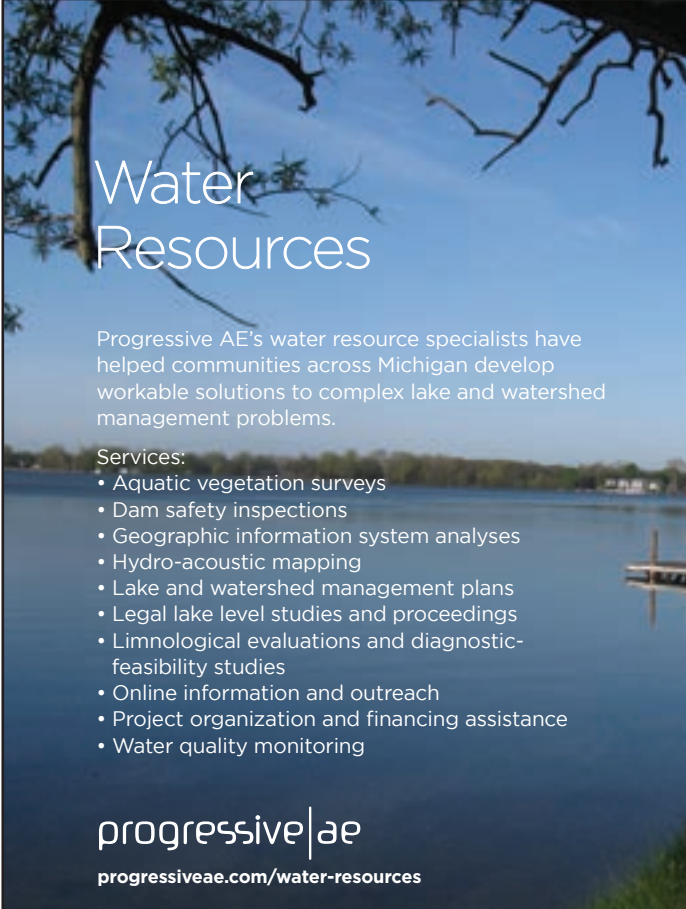
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Photo Credit Ralph Bednarz

In A TRIBUTE TO Loving Memory

Remembering a Life Defined by Enthusiasm, Dedication, Pride, and Service

By Scott Brown
ML&SA Executive Director

For those of us who knew her well, there would never be any question about what Pearl Bonnell loved most about her long, productive life. While we take this opportunity in the summer of 2016 to fondly remember and honor the significant achievements and contributions made by Pearl to our organizations, we would be ill-advised to suggest that any aspect of her long life was nearly as important to Pearl as her cherished roles of dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. In honoring her life and achievements, what we remember most about Pearl is that she was endlessly devoted to, and proud of her husband of sixty nine years, Bruce Bonnell, their four children Bruce, Paul, Robert, and Ruth, and the blessings of her eight grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.

Born on June 13, 1927 on a small farm located in Hampton Township, Michigan, Pearl often fondly reminisced about growing up on the farm and lending a much needed helping hand to her parents in accomplishing the seemingly endless number of chores that always accompany farm life. Her penchant for hard work and her unbounded enthusiasm would ultimately lead to a remarkable and achievement filled career of service to a unique

family of volunteer-based organizations that were founded on the idea that successful management of Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes and streams. It would inherently require pro-active engagement by both public and private organizations and people working together at the state, regional, and community levels. Serving Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, the Michigan Lakes and Streams Foundation, and The Michigan Riparian magazine for over thirty years beginning in the late 1970's, Pearl's boundless energy and exceptional ability to "get things done" were instrumental in achieving a significant increase in both the size and statewide influence of the organizations, and in the creation and expansion of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, one of the nation's oldest and largest inland lake water quality monitoring programs.

While serving as the ML&SA Director of Operations, a position created by the Board of Directors in 1992 in order to assist Executive Director Don Winne in managing the day-to-day operations of the rapidly growing organizations, Pearl, husband Bruce, and Don Winne would log tens of thousands of miles each year on Michigan's highways while assisting almost every lake association in the state, including many long road trips to visit members living on inland lakes located in the far western reaches of the Upper Peninsula. While we could easily devote several pages to highlighting the major accomplishments of this endlessly enthusiastic and energetic lady, in the end, what we remember most about our Pearl is her passionate commitment to the people and ideas that she loved. Thank you Pearl, for providing us all with a wonderful example of a life well lived!



Memories of Pearl

By Jean Roth
CLMP Program Administrator

I had the pleasure of getting to know Pearl by working as a volunteer at her office in Long Lake for many years. She was a very smart businesswoman; and to her God came first, then her family, and then her love for Michigan Lake and Stream Associations.

She was a people person, and you would always see her taking time to talk to everyone she met at the conferences or in the office. She also loved waterfalls and lighthouses. She and her husband, Bruce, traveled all over the Michigan to visit them. She will be missed.

Pearl, a Dear Friend

"I had the pleasure of working with Pearl for 25 years. She was a great lady, but most of all a dear friend. Pearl helped make ML&SA the great organization it was and still is. She encouraged many people to take part in ML&SA the membership, programs and conferences. She always strived to make ML&SA better than the year before. She always encouraged people to take care of the lakes and continued to educate them. To Pearl, I take off my hat. She will be sorely missed by me and my husband Paul."

~ Cecile Kortier, ML&SA, retired

MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM ASSOCIATIONS'

PEARL BONNELL



Pearl Bonnell, Director of Operations, ML&SA (left); Randy Cook, Director of Education ML&SA (center); and Kathleen Straus, President, State of Michigan Board of Education (right).

program, walked me through how to create and host a conference at the R.A.M. Center (where this picture was taken) and encouraged me to press on with my students to not just do water testing, but to appreciate and enjoy our water heritage. Her tireless energy and help throughout the beginning stages of the project will never be forgotten.

Pearl Bonnell

By Dr. Stacy L. Daniels

Crystal Lake, Benzie County

Words cannot describe the influence Pearl Bonnell had on me to become associated with ML&SA in 1993 and the pleasure of becoming acquainted with her wonderful family. I am saddened by Pearl's passing but sincerely appreciate her full life and her impact on generations of riparians and littorians.

I remember many an annual meeting of ML&SA when Pearl would present bags of peanuts to attendees that had travelled the farthest to the conference. She and Don Winnie were the "glue" that held ML&SA together for many years, and even made a special stop at Crystal Lake one year to observe our Crystal Lake "Walkabout", an educational program that now has been attended by some 5,000 students over 23 years.

Pearl, indirectly by her example, led me to write my book, "The Comedy of Crystal Lake", in 2015. It is no wonder that the office of "Director of Operations for ML&SA" an active position from 1990-2009 was eliminated upon her retirement. No one could have replaced her and the organization was thriving. Pearl led by example and I miss her personal greetings. She inspired many folks to really care about their lake.

Pearl Bonnell--Encourager

By Randy Cook

I had written a text on water quality testing and brought it to the Annis Water Research Institute to have it evaluated by experts. After reading through my text, the director told me I really should contact Pearl Bonnell, the director of operations of a nonprofit organization called Michigan Lake and Stream Associations. He gave me her number, I called, and a week later Pearl was in Howard City to talk to me. She liked the work my students were doing and told me "this has to be a part of ML&SA".

Pearl wasn't someone who would take no for an answer, and the Watershed Testing program started. She helped me write grants, helped me set up seminars to train the participants of the

Pearl Bonnell, "Lady of the Lakes"

During the early 1990's, the MDEQ and ML&SA forged a partnership to expand and enhance the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Don Winne and Pearl Bonnell lead the way to implement this partnership as a new ML&SA endeavor.

This highly successful partnership continues today under the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) volunteer monitoring network.

This picture was taken in the summer of 2007 at AuSable Lake, Ogemaw County, during side-by-side sampling with CLMP volunteers and National Lakes Assessment monitoring staff.

~ Ralph Bednarz, MDEQ, Retired



Cliff Bloom presenting plaque for years of service to Pearl on her retirement

"REMEMBERING PEARL ..."

By Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.

Grand Rapids, Michigan

On April 17, 2016, both the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc. and *The Michigan Riparian* magazine lost a giant – Pearl Bonnell. Over the years, Pearl served as Treasurer and Director of Operations (as well as many other various titles and positions over the years) for ML&SA. Pearl also put in countless hours to benefit *The Michigan Riparian* magazine. Pearl will be greatly missed by not only her family, but also by her ML&SA and *The Michigan Riparian* magazine families as well.

I first met Pearl in the early 1990's via an introduction by Don Winne, just as I started to become involved with ML&SA and the magazine. Pearl welcomed me with great warmth and over the years not only demonstrated again and again her great intelligence and supportive nature, but also her dedication to and leadership of ML&SA and the magazine. It did not take me long to learn that notwithstanding all of the other dedicated members, workers and supporters of ML&SA and the magazine, there were three individuals who were indispensable to those organizations – Don Winne, Bruce Bonnell and Pearl.

Over the years, I came to view Pearl as a grandmother figure (although she would likely protest that in those days-she was not old enough to be my grandmother!). I greatly miss seeing Pearl at all the conventions, seminars and meetings of the ML&SA organizations. Notwithstanding Pearl growing older, it just seemed like she would be there forever.

It seems eminently correct and proper that the person who was the gem of the leadership of Michigan's premiere waterfront organization would have the name ... Pearl.



VanEtten LAKE

(Continued from page 7)

come for perch, walleye, bass, crappie, northern pike, and even rainbow trout. The lake is cited on many websites as a top-notch fishing destination.

Loud Island

One of the distinguishing features of VanEtten Lake is Loud Island, located near the northern part of the lake. This heavily forested property is approximately 35 acres in size with one mile of natural shoreline. It was named after the head of one of the primary logging companies located in Oscoda, Edward Loud. He built a house

Island view at Lake VanEtten



on the island along with a caretaker's cottage. The log home was handed down to family members over the years, but eventually was sold to a private resident who remodeled the original home and still resides there part time.

A vast number of native plants, flowers, and trees populate the island, making it a haven for birds, small animals, and even an occasional deer that might venture across the frozen lake in the winter to forage for food. Many lake dwellers have reported "great fishing" along the west side of the island and eagles are frequently seen perching in its lofty trees.

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Formation of the Lake Association

Records indicate that as early as 1939 problems were arising regarding maintaining a safe and consistent lake level for the impoundment known as VanEtten Lake. Since this body of water was ultimately the “delta” of the Pine River, all the conditions influencing the watershed north of the lake (e.g. rain, winds, ground water seepage, vegetation, etc.) produced erratic fluctuations in water level on the lake throughout the year causing unexpected flooding and destruction of property.

Under the direction of the Conservation District, riparians were advised to form an association in order to establish a court-ordered level for the lake to be regulated at the dam site. No formal association was established at that time, but many property owners turned out to voice their concerns. So in 1944, a decree was issued setting this number (589.2 ft. above sea level). Plans were made to construct a new dam, which was completed in 1947 and paid for by a special assessment district (SAD) made up of those who benefited from the lake. The lake water was to be drawn down in the fall to help deter any ice damage during the winter, and then raised again in the early spring, depending on the amount of snow melt and rain events. This action did not produce the desired results, however, and the matter was again taken to court in 1955.

Recommendations were made to repair and/or reconstruct the dam and continue the SAD for dam maintenance, keeping a daily log of lake levels to enforce the court-ordered level. In addition to issues with water levels, riparians began to take notice of all the unwanted sediment flowing into the lake from Pine River, bringing with it additional nutrients which were adding to the abundant

(Continued on page 21)



VanEtten Lake view



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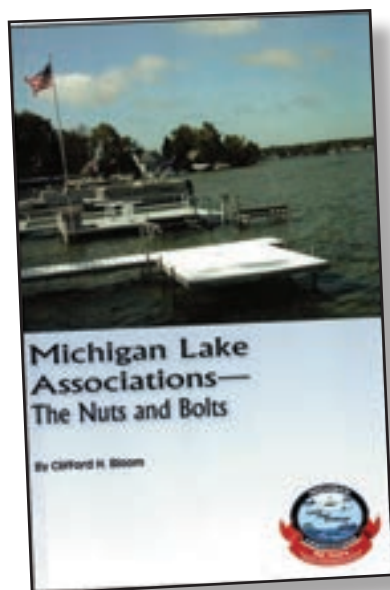
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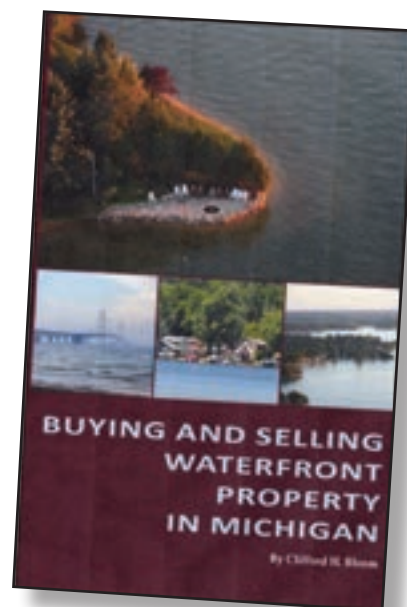


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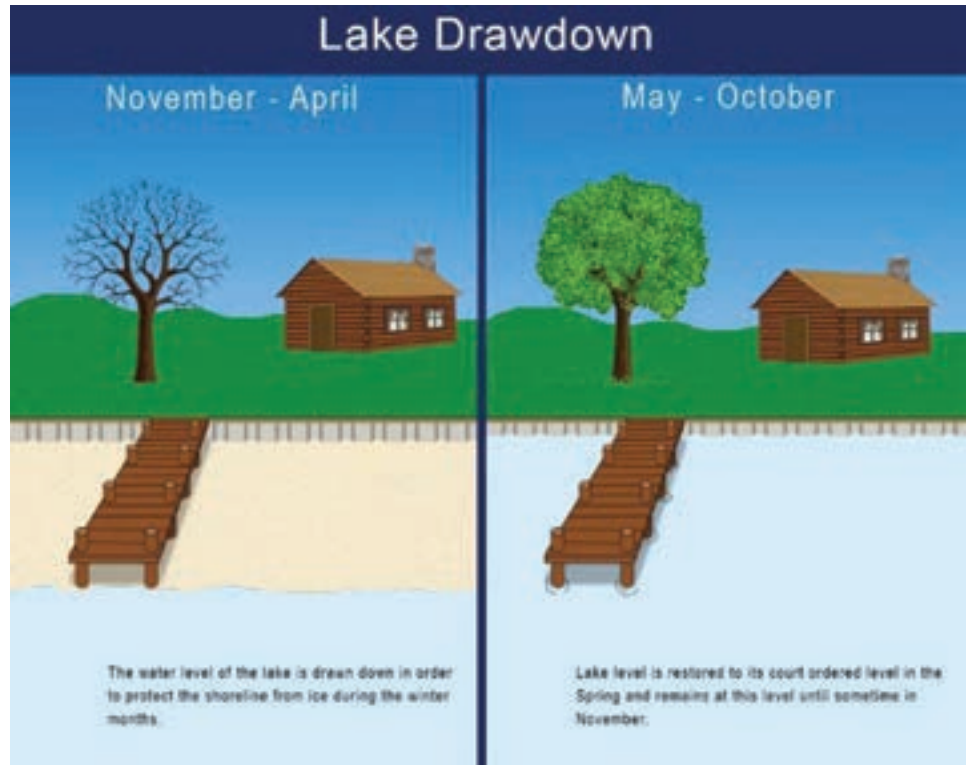
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(Continued from page 19)

weed growth in the lake and impacting water depth at some spots, influencing all types of recreational activities. They also became aware of one of the most prolific weeds matting up the waters, Eurasian milfoil, a non-native invasive brought in by boats from the public launch site. Finally in 1981, to better influence the decisions made at the township regarding the improvement and protection of the lake, riparians formed a non-profit corporation called VanEtten Lake Association (VELA), which is still going strong today. Working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, and the local township board, the nine member board began to hold meetings on a regular basis to inform and educate the members on important lake issues, like dam operations, fishing concerns, water quality, and weed management. Ever increasing membership enable VELA to better accomplish its goals.

Today, the membership has grown to approximately 300 riparians—a good number considering many of the property owners are part-time residents. Through newsletters, emails, VELA website (www.vanettenlake.org), educational handouts, and open meetings, VELA continues to keep people informed and hopefully involved in the ongoing effort to keep VanEtten Lake healthy for current riparians as well as future residents.



Current programs and projects include:

- ★ weed control (in cooperation with township-sponsored SAD and utilizing a lake management firm) primarily to treat Eurasian milfoil and other nuisance weeds
- ★ water quality testing (as part of MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Program)
- ★ fish stocking (conducted every other year by the DNR)
- ★ endowment fund (through Northeastern Michigan Community Foundation)
- ★ educational outreach (materials/handouts especially related to riparian impact on water quality)
- ★ invasive species identification and eradication (in partnership with Huron Pines RC&D)
- ★ Cormorant harassment program
- ★ membership promotion



VanEtten Dam



(Continued on page 26)

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Dear Michigan Waterfront Alliance Members and Friends,

I am glad to report that Richard Brown, Scott Brown and Ed Highfield were re-elected to the MWA Board of Directors. The results of the election were reported at the MWA Annual Membership meeting held on May 26, 2016 in Lansing.

On the same day, during the Annual Board Meeting, I appointed Lon Nordeen to take the place of John Hood on the MWA Board. Also at the Annual Board Meeting, the following officers were elected:

President: Bob Frye
Vice President: Dick Brown
Treasurer: Ed Highfield
Secretary: Roger Carey

In addition to the above officers, Nancy Beckwith, Lon Nordeen, Scott Brown and William Carey complete the Board of Directors of the MWA.

Besides the Annual Membership Meeting and the Annual Board Meeting, your MWA board also held a regular board meeting that same day.

During the course of the three meetings, numerous inland lake and stream issues were discussed and reviewed. Included were Senate Bills 104, 39 and 40, Swimmers Itch Funding, DNR and DEQ leadership changes and a strategy to encourage vastly increased funding for the fight against aquatic invasive species by the DNR. Also discussed was a strategy whereby the Michigan Waterways Commission would be held responsible for the introduction of aquatic invasive species via existing public launch sites and the creation of new public launch sites.

A question and answer session led to the creation of a Publicity Committee to help publicize the MWA DNR / Michigan Waterways Commission White Paper which is being written by Ed Mahoney and MWA Board members Lon Nordeen and William Carey.

All in all, it was a very productive day of meetings. I would like to thank the MWA board members for their selfless dedication to the protection of Michigan's lakes and streams.

Have a great summer!
Bob Frye
MWA President

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(Send pictures in jpeg or 300 dpi.)

Dan and Richalle Kropik of Westland, Exchange Wedding Vows on Clifford Lake

(Montcalm County, Michigan)

Richalle (Patino) Kropik has been visiting her grandparents, Arlene and Tony Patino, at their home on Clifford Lake for the past 26 years. From the time she was a little girl, Richalle often imagined having her wedding at the lake. This past fall, her dream became reality with a beautiful wedding and reception at her parents cottage on Clifford Lake, right next door to her grandparents home.

Please send us your wedding photos or special celebrations you have hosted on your lake. You can send your photos to swagner@mlswa.org. We will showcase them in an upcoming Love My Lake feature.




Photo Credit: Josh Parker & Jeremy Overton – J Squared Photography



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Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership's Lake Protection Publication

"Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes: A Guide for Local Governments"

By Scott Brown
ML&SA Executive Director




For Michigan's local government officials, and for the legions of "lake-lovers" in our midst that may be interested in learning more about the important, though significantly underserved role of local governments in contributing to the management and protection of Michigan's priceless treasure of inland lakes, you'll want to download or otherwise glean a copy of the recently released publication, "Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes: A Guide for Local Governments". The book is a collaborative public/private initiative led by the

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and published by the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership. The collaborative was launched in 2008 to promote natural shoreline landscaping to protect Michigan's inland lakes. The six chapter, 37 page guidebook was designed "to help local officials and concerned citizens understand the benefits of inland lakes to communities, the regulations that govern inland lakes, and the opportunities for protecting them at the local level." The well written and nicely illustrated contents of the guidebook provide readers with a variety of inland lake protection techniques that range from simple enforcement of existing inland lakes protection statutes to local development and implementation of more comprehensive lake protection focused ordinances.

The newly released lake protection guidebook is now available for download from the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership's Shoreline Resources webpage found at <http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org> (along with a variety of many other helpful resources).

You may download the guidebook directly by pointing your internet browser toward http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/uploads/4/6/8/6/46869113/inlandlakes_booklet.pdf

For those less comfortable with the internet, the guidebook is also available in print from the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Central Office by contacting swagner@mlswa.org. For more information about the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, please contact Ms. Julia Kirkwood at kirkwoodj@michigan.gov. 

Perch Lake Owners Association Receives the ML&SA

“Riparian of the Year Award” for 2016

By Scott Brown
ML&SA Executive Director

The Perch Lake Owners Association (Iron County) has received the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations’ 2016 “Inland Lake Riparian of the Year” award. The award was presented to Jim Novitski who accepted a commemorative plaque on behalf of the Perch Lake Owners Association on Friday, April 29, 2016 during the banquet held as part of the 2016 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention.

The annual award is presented to an organization or individual whose lake or stream conservation and/or stewardship activities during the past year have best exemplified the achievement of the mission and goals of ML&SA. The Perch Lake Owners Association and Mr. Novitski devoted considerable time, energy, and ingenuity in designing and building a large scale containment system at the Perch Lake public boat access site in order to help prevent new introductions of aquatic invasive species.

To learn more about the innovative ideas and methods implemented by the Perch Lake Owners Association in designing their unique AIS containment system, read the spring 2016 edition of The Michigan Riparian magazine. The entire ML&SA family extends our appreciation to the Perch Lake Owners Association, and to Jim Novitski, for their dedication and hard work in pursuing the goal of preserving and protecting our inland waters!



Jim Novitski, Perch Lake Owners Association

Nancy Beckwith, Awarded ML&SA Masters Jacket

ML&SA Corporate Officer Winner of 2016 Honor at the Inland Lakes Convention



Nancy Beckwith, Recipient of ML&SA Masters Jacket

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations is proud to announce that Ms. Nancy Beckwith of Grand Rapids is the recipient of the “Masters Jacket” Award for 2016. The special award was created many years ago in order to recognize and honor the significant achievements and contributions of individuals directly serving and/or closely affiliated with Michigan Lake and Stream Associations.

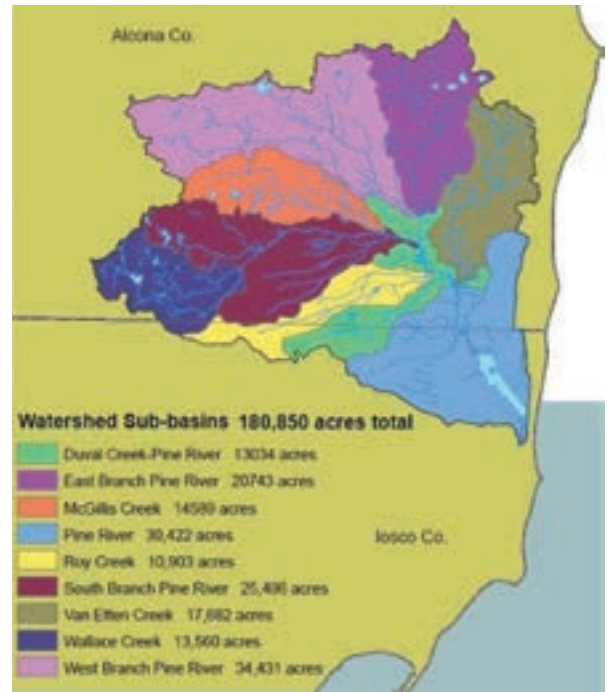
Serving as Secretary of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc. (ML&SA) since 2010, Ms. Beckwith has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours while faithfully serving in her Board of Directors appointed role as an officer of the corporation. She also serves as a dedicated volunteer lake water quality monitor within the MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.

Her enthusiasm, positive energy, and steadfast commitment in contributing to the achievement of the mission and goals of the organization, and to protecting Michigan’s inland water resources are a source of inspiration to all who serve with her. She exemplifies the important role of volunteers within ML&SA.

(Continued from page 21)

Pine River VanEtten Lake Watershed Coalition

In 1999, to better understand the correlation between the quality of the water coming into the lake from the river, riparian influences on that water, and the quality of the water as it leaves via the dam, a study was conducted through a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) grant awarded to Huron Pines Conservation group. One of the recommendations from that study was to establish a watershed management plan to better monitor what was happening within the 187,000 acres making up the area feeding into the lake. An informal group of interested persons began to take a look at watershed concerns and work on a practical management plan. This small group would eventually become the current Pine River VanEtten Lake Watershed Coalition (PRVEL), a strong partner of the VanEtten Lake Association. Then in 2001, Huron Pines Conservation group secured funding to assist PRVEL in the development of a comprehensive plan, bringing in several local partners (US Forest Service, Iosco and Alcona County Conservation Districts, Fish and Wildlife Division/DNR, USDA, and road commissions), to identify, prioritize, and finally implement a plan of action to remediate water quality problems such as increased sedimentation, temperature fluctuations, algae growth, invasive plant species, and unwanted nutrients entering the water through human or animal waste. A large part of the work being done within the watershed has been directed toward improving road stream crossings and controlling soil erosion along the river shoreline through bank stabilization. These projects are aimed at decreasing the amount of sediment going into the river and improving fish and wildlife habitat.



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VanEtten

L A K E

Goals and objectives are evaluated on a regular basis and projects are prioritized dependent on severity, ease of access to the river, and funding. PRVEL now has about 75 members on their mailing list and meet quarterly to discuss issues. They put out a newsletter twice a year and participate in local events to increase awareness of the conservation work they are trying to accomplish. They also work with local schools to involve students in their water sampling program where aquatic “bugs” are collected and identified to help evaluate water quality. Their River Keepers program also encourages volunteers to assist in monitoring the watershed area for possible problems as they enjoy the outdoors while hunting, fishing, hiking, kayaking, riding ORV's, or just walking the riverbanks.

They have a facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pineriverwatershed.

More information about their work can be found on the VanEtten Lake website – www.vanettenlake.org or Huron Pines website– www.huronpines.org – or visit www.northeastmichiganwatersheds.org.

Important Stats

- Watershed size – 187,000 miles
- Watershed wetlands – 6,404 acres
- Pine River miles – 372 miles
- Lakes within the watershed - 10
- VanEtten Lake surface area – 1,409 acres
- Shoreline length – 10.7 miles
- Mean depth – 14 ft.
- Maximum depth – 30 ft.
- Residents around the lake – 673

Sustaining Our Future

Working together to keep the lake and its watershed healthy has been a challenge, more so in some years than in others. But most riparians have been responsive to the call to be good stewards of their lake property and have supported the VELA board's efforts on their behalf. For example, the current Endowment Fund was initiated by a lake resident and continues to grow year by year, providing funding for projects related to lake health and wildlife protection now and for years to come. Education has been a key element in getting everyone “on board” in developing a good sense of what it takes to live on a lake and the potential impact that human factors can have on water quality.

Property owners attending our annual meetings have access to a variety of materials to better understand their role in lake living and keeping the lake healthy. Working with the township officials has also been a challenge at times, but the relationship is necessary to ensure continued monitoring of potential concerns, especially weed management and the prevention of aquatic invasives coming into the lake. Since the lake boasts of its excellent fishing and recreational opportunities, it attracts many visitors each year. With boaters and fisherman coming from outside the area utilizing the public boat launch, VELA has been the primary watchdog to educate both the public and the township officials on appropriate measures to sustain our water quality. Beginning at the first of this year, a new

SAD will be implemented under their direction, with input from VELA on treatment options and choosing a lake management firm. Membership in the volunteer lake association has fluctuated over the years, but still shows solid numbers considering many riparians are part-time residents. The feedback on membership invoices is positive. Dues have been kept low and monies collected allow the association to participate in vital educational venues, conduct water quality testing, contribute to fish stocking facilities, support the watershed, manage a website, mail out newsletters, and sponsor an annual free picnic for everyone on the lake.

All in all, our unique VanEtten Lake has been a part of northeastern Michigan history for many years and will continue to provide a variety of recreational activities for residents and non-residents alike. The appeal of “going north” has always seemed to attract people to the area, and it is our hope that the work we're doing to monitor and protect the lake will allow others to benefit for years to come. ●●●

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Invasive species in top image, from left to right: Japanese knotweed, European frogbit, Black swallow-wort, Garlic mustard, Phragmites.

Michigan's Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas

By Kip Cronk, Project Manager
Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)
989-781-1720

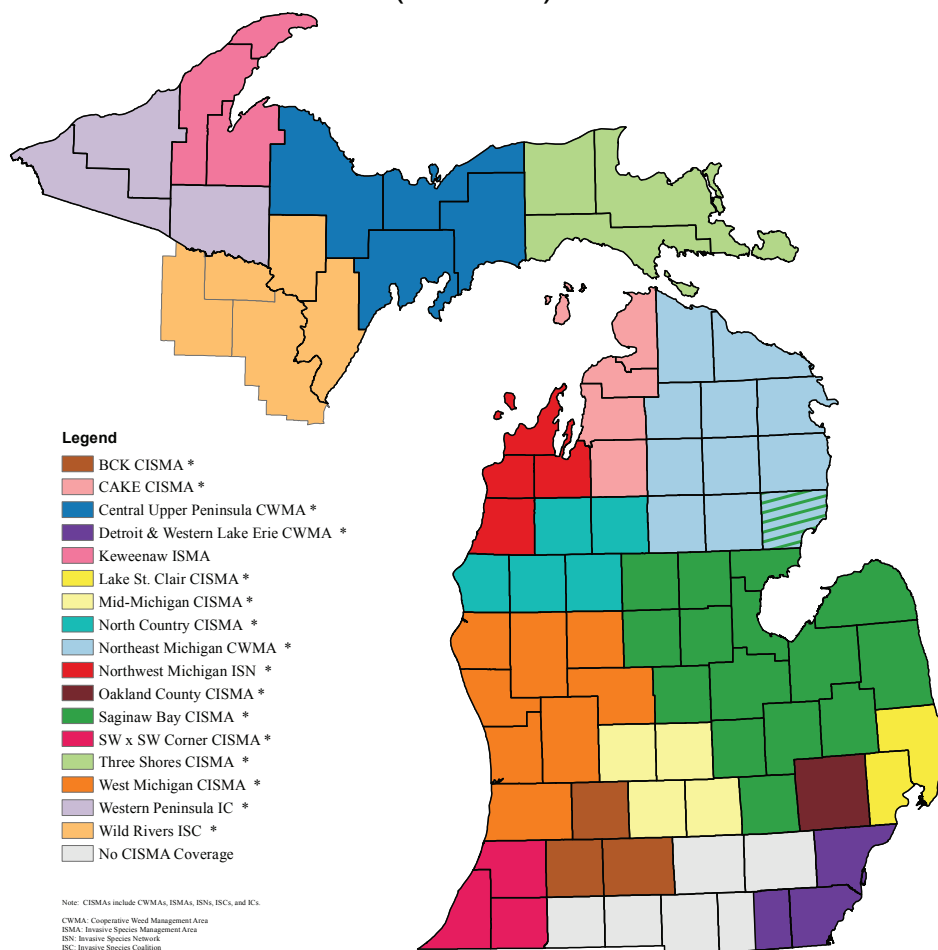
Saginaw Bay Cooperative
Saginaw Conservation District
sbcisma@gmail.com

As of 2016 there are 19 Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) throughout Michigan. The goal of the CISMAs is to create and support collaborative invasive species management among federal and state agencies, municipalities, tribes, non-profits, community organizations, and private landowners. The CISMAs promote invasive species education and outreach, inventory, as well as prevention and treatment. Many of the CISMAs are funded through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP). Information about each of the CISMAs can be found on the Michigan's Invasive Species Coalition website (<http://www.michiganinvasives.org/managementareas/>), along with other useful information regarding invasive species in Michigan.

The Saginaw Bay CISMA is comprised of over 6.5 million acres of land, all of whose water drains into the Saginaw Bay. That area is spread over 15 counties with a population of 2.5 million. Even though there are a few major urban areas, the vast majority of the watershed is rural.

The ecological impacts of invasive species include degradation of water quality, loss of wildlife habitat, and replacement of native vegetation in our natural areas and open spaces. After habitat loss, invasive species have been recognized as the second largest danger to threatened and endangered species.


Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs)



Invasive species cause billions of dollars in damage throughout the United States every year.

The priority invasive species for the Saginaw Cisma are Black Swallow-wort, European Frog-bit, Flowering Rush, Japanese Knotweed, Pale Swallow-wort and non-native phragmites. We are working with the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) to map their locations and would encourage everyone to use their smartphone app to report invasive species. Using the mapped invasive species, we hire a Strike Team every summer that verifies the invasive species, and manages them by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs for the priority species range from hand removal to herbicide application. Treatment is also conducted by the individual members of the Saginaw Bay Cisma. In addition, the Saginaw Bay Cisma and all of its partners are constantly providing outreach to the public and creating innovative education materials regarding invasive species.

The 19 Cismas located throughout Michigan are effectively bringing people together to manage the invasive species that keep finding their way into our beautiful state. Working together, there is hope that we can manage invasive species and allow our natural ecological communities to thrive.

More information about the Saginaw Bay Cisma can be found at www.saginawcd.com/p/sbcisma. You can also "like us" on Facebook and read the latest updates regarding our efforts to combat invasive species at www.facebook.com/sbcisma. 



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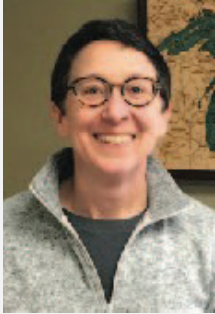
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Our Individual Roles in the Democratic Process

By Jill Ryan
Freshwater Future
Executive Director
www.freshwaterfuture.org



While there is a lot of rhetoric today about our country and our democratic process of government—how often do we stop and think about how that process works in our lives? What did Abraham Lincoln mean when he described government as “of the people, by the people and for the people?” In my opinion, ‘of the people’ means those elected are ordinary citizens, ‘by the people’ means regular people are responsible for selecting the elected officials through their votes, and ‘for the people’ signals that the government’s sole responsibility is to benefit its residents. From individual local decisions to Congressional decisions that impact the entire country, citizen involvement is critical to make this unique form of government work.

I see this playing out in our communities every day. The more we, as individuals, educate ourselves regarding issues that are important to us and voice our opinions and use our votes through the process, the better our system works. Many of you reading this are exactly the type of people who remind me every day of the value of participation in our system. You participate in public meetings in your community; you vote for those you believe best represent your values and you let them know how their decisions impact you and your community; when you see that a project or proposal might not be a benefit to the community, you take action to try to make it better. You get involved.

Individual participation is truly what makes the democratic process work. Thousands of decisions are made every day at the local level that impact how our land, water, air and other resources will be used or preserved. Without individuals participating in those decision-making processes, elected officials may hear only from the company or proponent behind the project. Individuals with local knowledge of how that project may impact the community, its residents and resources are therefore critical in ensuring important information and voices are at the table.

Whether you are working to encourage clean energy, prevent the destruction of a wetland, eliminate the use of toxic substances, ensure clean drinking water for your community, or a host of other great efforts—I applaud you for getting involved. You are focusing on what is important to you, and ensuring a robust democratic process. ●●●

Is Your Lake Due for a Check Up?

A photograph showing a person's hand in a blue nitrile glove holding a clear plastic water sampling bottle. The bottle is partially filled with water and has a metal frame inside. The background is a calm lake under a clear sky.

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