

# Remembering Donald E. Winne

## Don's Thoughts About His Lake



*His love for Michigan water resources started right at home. Don Winne in his own words taken from the Michigan Riparian May 2009 issue. "There are many reasons why I love Corey Lake. It has a plentiful supply of fish such as perch, bluegill, crappie, large and smallmouth bass, stocked rainbow trout and wall-*

*eye. Sailing is a popular boating activity which takes advantage of the predominant westerly winds.*

*Another attraction of the area are the wild birds that nest and raise their young near the lake. Birds seen frequently are robins, flickers, orioles, wrens, swallows, finches, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and others that are seen year-around, including cardinals and blue jays.*

*One of the accomplishments of the Corey Lake Association in 1974 was to convince the Circuit Court Judge to set a new and higher (7 inches) lake level for Corey Lake. It is now 874 feet above sea level, and has not been changed for 33 years. I served as President of the Corey Lake Improvement Association during these years.*

*Another reason I love Corey Lake is the cooperative attitude of the residents in promoting what is good for the lake. As an example, Ralph Vogel has been taking Secchi disk measurements (which measure water clarity) since 1974 – 34 years. Finally, I love Corey Lake because I enjoy being able to look out my front windows and absorb the beauty and tranquility of the lake."*

The thing that impressed me most about Don is that he was a gentleman at all times. He never had a bad word to say about anyone and he valued everyone's opinion. He was always looking at what was best for the lakes and waterways in Michigan and gave everything he could to protect them until he physically could no longer do it.

Ed Highfield  
MLSA Regional 8 Representative

## A Tribute to Don Winne

*By Clifford H. Bloom*

By now, most friends of Don Winne are aware that Don passed away this past August. The last annual convention for the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations which Don attended was at Houghton Lake in April of 2009. At that convention, I had the distinct honor of presenting both Don and Pearl Bonnell with lifetime achievement awards for their beloved organization, the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations. At that time, I introduced Don to the audience with the following remarks:

"Before meeting Don in the early 1990s, I had, of course, read *The Michigan Riparian* for many years and always saw Don's smiling picture just inside the magazine. In fact, unlike my picture in *The Michigan Riparian*, despite the years, Don still looks quite a bit like his picture from a decade or two ago!

The first contact I had with Don was when I received an advance copy of the Michigan Supreme Court's decision in *Square Lake Hills Condo Assn v Bloomfield Twp*, which dealt with an ordinance regulating docks and boats. That case was a significant victory for riparians. I called Don to ask if he had heard about or seen the court decision yet and he said he had not. I faxed him a copy. We talked about the legal and practical implications of the court decision, and thus began our friendship.

Don also reminds me of my grandfather—honest, enthusiastic, a great lover of Michigan outdoors, tireless work ethic, a leader and a teacher. He was someone who can be as enthused about lakes, the law, and the outdoors as I am.

Don's enthusiasm is infectious. He always has time for you. I am convinced that Don's secret to longevity is based both on his enthusiasm and zest for life, as well as his continued curiosity and drive to learn and accomplish more.

Don is, of course, Mr. Riparian. No one in the state of Michigan is as associated with or well-known regarding lakes and streams as Don Winne.

Don and Pearl make quite a team. It is difficult to imagine that MLSA would be the organization it has become without them.

Don—thank you for your 35 years of splendid service as Executive Director of MLSA and as Publisher of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine."

Don will be greatly missed, not only by me, his family and close friends, but by riparians throughout Michigan.