



Van Etten Lake Association

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Keeping Members Informed and Involved

VELA Members:

Spring seems to be coming into “full bloom.” The temperature is warming, the rainy nights are giving way to sunshine during most of the days, waterfowl can be seen all around the lake, homeowners are beginning work on their yards and gardens, and there are even a few docks going in before the water level comes up at the end of April. Spring is a wonderful time of change and renewal.

This year we hope to be able to hold in person membership meetings and have our picnic at the beginning of August. The dates and times of our activities can be found in this newsletter. We will also be sending out email reminders to all and placing a notification in the Oscoda Press the week before our scheduled meetings. Please mark your calendars and try to attend the VELA meetings. They are a great way to get information, meet others on the lake, ask questions, and share ideas.

That being said, **all VELA members** are asked to thoughtfully consider joining one of our **committees** for the 2021 year. This is not only a great way to keep informed, but also make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Also, *we ask members to consider serving a term on our Board of Directors.* Each one of our members has special gifts and talents they can share with all to help make VELA an even stronger community. You may contact our committee chairs for further information:

- Lake Monitor Committee: Dan Stock dstock48750@gmail.com
- Weed Committee: Leonard Brockhahn sbrock50@gmail.com
- Membership: Betsy Dillingham vela.dilly@gmail.com
- Picnic Committee: Carole Plunkey caroleplunkey@charter.net
- Questions about joining the Board of Directors: Rick Copland velabpres@gmail.com

Last year VELA membership was at an all-time high and we hope to continue our growth by encouraging all who benefit from our lake to join. This year, in consideration of the strain Covid -19 has put on our current members, the Board of Directors decided that membership dues for 2021 will be waived for all....membership in VELA for 2021 is FREE. Please encourage your neighbors to join. A membership application is enclosed in this newsletter.

Finally, over the winter months we have been working with Oscoda Township to renew our special assessment district to provide funding for the purpose of controlling Eurasian Milfoil and Aquatic Nuisance Plants in Van Etten Lake. This SAD (special assessment district) has been in place since 1999 and been very beneficial to the quality of our lake. Each property owner recently received a letter from Oscoda Township with information about the SAD. We encourage all members to support the SAD as it will allow us to continue ensuring the quality of the Van Etten Lake experience for all.

Richard Copland
President, Board of Directors

MEMBERSHIP

**Everyone is
Invited**

Spring Membership Update Betsy Dillingham

The latest information received from Oscoda Township lists 639 property owners on Van Etten Lake. At the end of 2020, VELA had a total of 297 members which puts VELA at just under 50% owner membership! In mid-February, an email was sent to members with email addresses on file informing them that the VELA Board of Directors had approved waiving dues payments for 2021. If a member paid for more than one year the last time a payment was made, they have been credited with an additional year.

If you did not receive the original email, that means I do NOT have an email address for you. A membership form has been included with this newsletter. If you would like to update any of your information and/or provide an email address, please complete the form and return to me via email to: vela.dilly@gmail.com or via snail mail to: VELA, PO Box 601, Oscoda, MI 48750.

The Board also is giving an opportunity to Van Etten Lake property owners that are NOT already members to join at no cost for 2021. If you would like to take this opportunity, please complete the form and return to me via email: vela.dilly@gmail.com or via snail mail to: VELA, PO Box 601, Oscoda, MI 48750. **VELA does not share email addresses.** If you have any questions or comments, please email me at: vela.dilly@gmail.com

Annual Picnic- Summer Fun

The 2021 picnic is schedule for Saturday, August 7 (Subject to change due to Covid 19). The picnic committee is always in need of additional members to help plan and welcomes your input. Contact Carole Plunkey at caroleplunkey@charter.net.



2021 CALENDAR

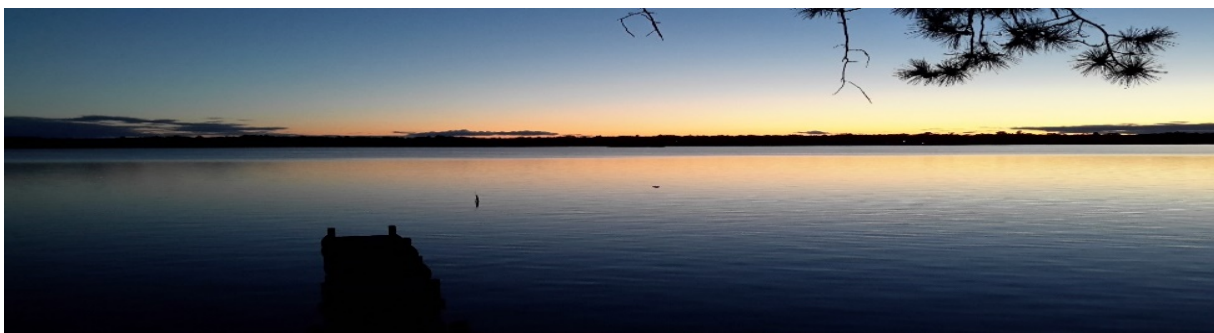
June 05, 2021 VELA General Meeting

July 10, 2021 VELA Annual Meeting

Aug 07, 2021 VELA Picnic

Sept 11, 2021 VELA General Meeting





2020 VAN ET TEN CLMP LAKE WATER QUALITY

SECCHI DISK CLARITY

The average of the weekly clarity measurements taken to date for 2020 averaged **6.0 feet**. The average for 2019 was **7.1 feet**. The 10-year average is **6.7 feet**. The average water temperature mid-lake was **72.5 deg. F**. The clarity and temperature measurements are taken weekly from mid-May to mid-September.

PHOSPHOROUS TESTING

The 2020 spring overturn phosphorus concentration as reported by a contract laboratory was **64 parts per billion [ppb]**. The date of Ice-out was March 30. This sample was taken on April 8. The comparable concentration in 2019 was **19 ppb**. The higher-than-normal result may be because of a lack of high winds between ice out and sampling, the early Ice-Out and a cooler than normal spring or because of the change in labs. 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 **28.6 ppb**. The summer sample was taken on September 20 and sent to the same lab. The reported concentration was **49 ppb**. The comparable concentration in 2019 was **31 ppb**. The 10-year average summer concentration is **43.6 ppb**.

CHLOROPHYLL A TESTING

The results of the testing in 2020 were unsatisfactory as the laboratory was using a variation in sample handling different from the one the state laboratory uses.

PLANS FOR THIS YEAR

Although the CLMP testing sign-up is getting a late start, we have signed up for the spring phosphorus sampling which will occur within two weeks following ice-out, preferably following a wind event needed to mix the lake well.

We will also sign-up for Clarity, Chlorophyll A and Summer Phosphorus testing. Additional sampling help is needed. The once per week summer sampling starts in mid-May and runs through mid-Sept. If interested in helping, call Dan Stock at 989-739-4239.

Dan Stock, Lead Lake Monitor



Normally PRVEL meetings are the second Thursday of January, April, July and October at 10am Harrisville Library Mtg Room. Due to Covid 19 the July and October meeting dates are TBD. **Volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please contact us at 989-310-6408.**

Van Etten Dam Information & Update



The Van Etten Dam is run and maintained by the Iosco County Drain Commission. Property owners in the special assessment district of the Dam pay a special assessment on the winter tax bill every year to pay for expenses incurred for operating the Dam. The Dam is inspected by Spicer Engineer Group every three years. The next inspection of the Dam will be in 2021. Previous inspections have all been satisfactory, which is the best rating. Since the recent flooding events our engineer has looked at the dam and does not have any concerns. Upcoming maintenance to be done on the dam include replacement of a ladder and changing the oil in all four hoists and lubricating the chains. More maintenance projected to be done next year is concrete repairs as required, caulk and inject cracks as needed, clean, prime, and paint steel components and de-bonded areas, and repainting elastomeric coating on Dam piers.

As for this Spring, 2021 - The water level on Lake Huron is expected to be up. Lake Huron dictates how to control the different levels that affect Van Etten lake. Our goal is to have enough water in the lake to allow fishermen to launch their boats by May 1, 2021. Fishermen will have to keep an eye on the water levels at the boat launch. This doesn't mean that Mother Nature will cooperate. We all know that the weather can have nasty effects.

Other reminders.....Always watch out for the Springtime debris throughout the lake and always keep all watercraft tied to the dock. Even watercraft that are on hoists. I cannot control the water level to accommodate those who are putting in their docks or taking them out. Also, we had an extension at the dock at Ratliff Park which was installed last Summer by the township. This will help with safety and give the public a more efficient launching of their boats.

Thanks, Greg Cole-Dam Operator

RAB (*Wurtsmith Restoration Advisory Board*) Update

The Air Force two interim remedial propose projects are:

1. A line of intersecting extraction wells parallel to F-41 with treatment to reduce the flow of PFAS to Van Etten Lake.
2. Additional wells with treatment at an expanded facility to reduce the flow of PFAS from the Fire Training Area to Clark's Marsh.

While both will be an improvement, it is not a final solution to the problems as not all of the PFAS will be intercepted and there remains a considerable amount of residual PFAS in Clark's Marsh itself

These projects will be discussed more fully at the April 21 Virtual RAB meeting along with information on when construction will begin.

Dan Stock

NOW (Need Our Water) Happenings

NOW in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and the Ecology Center hosted a virtual webinar on March 31 to discuss the Clark's Marsh plan. NOW has a technical team which includes Bob Delaney that is reviewing the Clark Marsh plan.

The Air Force is tentatively planning to release its proposed interim remediation plan for Van Etten Lake sometime around mid-April with a public meeting in late April or early May. Lake homeowners like you and me should be on the lookout and prepared to participate. We're at the Air Force's mercy as to timing and content. I'm hoping that NOW will be able to also host a webinar for that plan as well, but as noted, it's all coming down really fast. One thing I can say for certain: NOW's technical team will review.

The State of Michigan held a virtual Town Hall for PFAS at Wurtsmith on April 20, 2021.

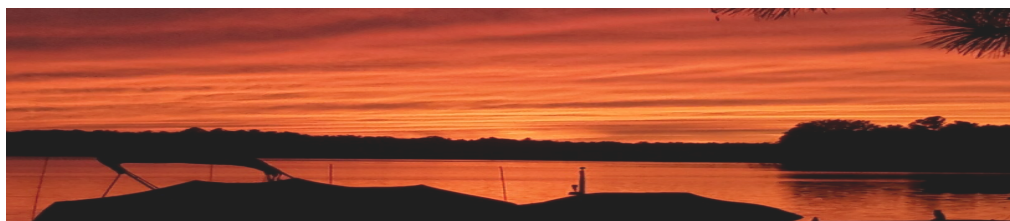
Tony Spaniola

Larry W. Evans Memorial Bench

Larry Evans, a long-time VELA supporter and volunteer, passed away March 6, 2020. His wife, Ann, wanted to somehow honor his memory here in Oscoda. Ann had a special memorial bench placed at Ken Ratliff Park.



The obviously new bench faces the lake, so anyone wanting to enjoy the view may sit and reflect. The bench has a small plaque of Larry holding a fishing pole, a very nice touch. Benches at Ken Ratliff Park are a wonderful way to honor those we love, while still benefiting others.



2020-2021 Board Members

President: Richard Copland

V.P.: Janice Wilber

Secretary: Celeste Creger

Treasurer: Leonard Brockhahn

& (Weed Committee Chair)

Betsy Dillingham (**Membership Director**)

Leif Lindblom

Frank Rainey

Dan Stock (**Lake Monitor & RAB Rep.**)

Victoria Targosz (**NOW Rep.**)

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VELA INBOX

Have questions about the lake association?

Email any board member. You may also visit our website - www.vanettenlake.org