



# The Sanford Lake Association



P.O. Box 212, SANFORD, MI 48657-0212 — Nov/Dec, 2010 — [www:sanfordlakeassociation.org](http://www.sanfordlakeassociation.org)

## SANFORD LAKE DAM (damn) REPAIRS!

By: Lee Walko & Joe Manelis

**Brief update on the timelines:** Seepage was first seen on the Sanford dam in early June and after monitoring in July, Boyce Hydro became concerned and requested to FERC the need to lower the pool level of the lake. The draw down was approved on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and Boyce Hydro began the draw down that resulted in lowering the normal pool level by 4 feet. FERC then approved in Sept. Boyce's request to raise the lake level while the construction was ongoing with the understanding that if seepage was observed again, the lake level will have to be lowered. On Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> the lake level was lowered to the winter draw-down elevation (3 feet below normal) as seepage was observed.

**Current status:** The western section (200 feet) nearest to the Sanford County Park is approximately 55% complete as of Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. The new drain piping located in the original toe drain ditch has been installed and covered with crushed limestone and 2NS sand. The manhole has been installed. The 2NS sand has been placed over the new slotted drainpipes placed on the surface of the down-stream slope of the embankment, and the crushed limestone overlay is being installed at this time. Repairs to this section should be completed during the first part of Dec.

The eastern section consisting of about 120 lineal feet of repair area will not be started until March or April 2010 and will require about thirty days to complete. Once all repairs are complete and FERC has approved them, the lake should return to normal operating levels.

**Potential Problems:** The issue of normal levels also deserves some commentary. Normally the draw down for the winter takes place mid December, and usually brings the water level down approximately 3 feet. Due to the ongoing repairs the lake has essentially been at the winter draw down level since early fall (-3'). They are going to keep it at that level until the "normal" time to raise the lake level, and that is determined by the temperature of the outflow water at the dam. The DNR requires the lake be returned to what is called "normal pond level" when the outflow water has reached 39°F. The problem that can arise is that at this temperature, there can be significant surface ice still floating on the lake, and if driven by a strong enough wind, this ice can and often does cause serious damage to docks and anything else left in the water over the winter.

The SLA *intends* to communicate our concerns with the dam operators in an effort to get them to hold off this coming spring on the raising of the lake level UNTIL ALL THE ICE IS OFF OF THE LAKE. The logic behind this is that due to the dam repairs taking place this year there has been an unusual amount of boats, boat hoists and docks left in the water, and we would like to see these NOT BE DAMAGED by ice this spring. We will keep you advised of our efforts on this issue either by way of newsletters or better still, please check our website during this coming winter, at [sanfordlakeassociation.org](http://sanfordlakeassociation.org) ☺

## SLA Annual Picnic

by Ellen Peden

The SLA had the biggest turn out ever at the August 17th picnic, over 120 people attended. Three picnic tables were loaded with great pot luck food and of course the featured item was Joe Manelis' wonderful pulled pork sandwiches.

We enjoyed two speakers; one a biologist from the fisheries dept of the DNRE and one from Enviro Science who spoke about Milfoil Beetles to control Eurasian Milfoil. Both speakers were very knowledgeable and had interesting information to share. The main topic of discussion, of course, was the draw down of the lake that had surprisingly occurred a few days earlier.

Many people offered opinions and information about the event, information from the owners and operators of the dam was also shared. Afterward, board members were introduced and a vote was taken to decide what day the fireworks would launch next year.

**The members decided to have the fireworks display on Saturday, July 2nd with the rain date on Sunday July 3rd.** It was a true town meeting, citizens were invited to speak and share their insight into the ramifications of the dam draw down and a lot of information was shared and intentions clarified. It was time well spent in the spirit of shared interest and cooperation. ☐

## Sanford Lake ice CAN be dangerous

By Joe Manelis

Once again, the winter ice will beckon all those stalwart ice fishermen who may not be aware of the danger involved. THIN ICE is always a challenge, and getting back onto the ice once you have fallen thru can be next to impossible.

**A quick and easy fix** is to make wooden pegs about 1" in diameter and about 6" long with a cut off nail sticking out of one end, and strung thru your jacket with cup hooks and twine, like your mom used to do with your winter mittens. Holding the pegs, the nail end will grab the ice, and having it strung thru your winter jacket coming out the sleeves will keep the pegs easily within reach. **IF YOU FALL THRU THIS CAN EASILY SAVE YOUR LIFE** at a cost of a few dollars.

### SLA MTG. SCHEDULE FOR 2011

All meetings in 2011 are scheduled for 7:00 PM at the SANFORD VILLAGE OFFICES, across from the Senior Center. **Dates are subject to change, check website for any changes.**

**ALL MEMBERS OF THE SLA ARE WELCOME !**

1-18-2011, 2-15-11, 3-15-11,  
4-19-11, 5-17-11, 7-19-11,  
8-16-11 (Picnic), 9-20-11,  
10-18-11, 11-29-11 ☐

## Parkapaloosa Rocks on !

by Ellen Peden

Even though the water was down the crowd was up for a great time at the annual *Parkapaloosa* event at the county park on September 12th. The music played from noon until 8:00 featuring many great musicians and bands.

Great food, lots fun activities for children and a perfect summer temperature. The SLA had a booth with information to distribute from the sheriff's department, which included boating safety and personal watercraft laws and rules of operation. The Sanford Lake Improvement Board had donated depth maps of Sanford Lake. The Midland Conservation District donated identification posters of frogs and wetland species as well as brochures on water clarity and information regarding your ecological footprint and how to gage it. The DNRE provided information about camping, fishing guides and off road vehicles, and the Michigan State Extension office provided information about gardening and waterfront preservation.

Providing information to the community is an important aspect of the SLA so we were pleased to participate. Colette Urian also had a table with great crafts for children to make and take. It was a beautiful fun filled day.☐

### COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM

*By Chris Streeter*

Every year for the past several years the SLA has participated in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, sponsored by the Michigan Lakes and Stream Associations and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The SLA collects weekly Secchi-disc readings throughout the boating season and submits these data to the MDEQ in the fall.

A Secchi-disc measures water clarity, which is affected by the level of suspended sediment, organic material, and algae in the lake. The disc is lowered into the water and a measurement is taken when it is no longer visible. Secchi-disc readings are measured to the nearest one-half of a foot. This was a somewhat shortened season for collecting samples due to the unexpected lake draw-down.

Readings taken from the end of May until the middle of August indicated that the lake clarity was 9 feet at it's most clear and 5 feet at it's most turbid. The lake's clarity averaged around 7 feet this year. Thank you Zebra mussels.☐

**SANFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
MEETING – Oct. 19th , 2010 7:00 P.M. Village of  
Sanford Office**

Present: William Gebo, Jeff Menz, Joe Manelis (7:25 p.m.), Ellen Peden, Chris Streeter, Sharron Such, Rick Terwilliger, Lee Walko.

Absent: Colette Urian.

Others present: None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The treasurer's report was presented. The beginning balance on September 22, 2010 was \$7,935.64. A check in the amount of \$68.17 was written to Urian for craft supplies for the picnic and parkapalooza. The balance on October 19, 2010 is \$7,863.26. A motion was made by Peden and seconded by Gebo to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

**WEB SITE REPORT:**

Walko reported the web site is doing nicely and being used. The licensing requirements by FERC for Boyce Hydro are available on the SLA web site.

**DAM UPDATE:**

It was moved by Gebo and seconded by Terwilliger to set up a hierarchy of action for observance of the operation of the dams. A committee will be appointed to determine what the monitoring activities will be and the steps that will be taken. Motion carried. The "Observance of the Dam Committee" will be Gebo, Terwilliger and Walko.

There will be no meeting with Boyce Hydro and the membership of the SLA due to the fact that Mr. Mueller has returned to his Las Vegas home.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Gebo will present the membership list to the Riparian magazine. It was moved by Streeter and seconded by Menz to have the SLA membership drive from August 1 through September 30 with no Riparian magazine subscription for those joining after September 30. Motion carried.

**BYLAWS:**

Board members will look the bylaws over and report changes to be considered to Gebo by November 30. Streeter will focus on Sections 5-7. Terwilliger will focus on Section 8. Walko will send the board members a copy of the changes proposed thus far. Changes to be considered thus far are: (1) Checks written in the amount of \$500 or less will require one signature only; (2) Board membership terms will be split with 1/2 of the board being elected one year and the other half the next year.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

Menz heard of a speaker that will discuss greenbelts and will research this as a possibility for the picnic meeting. The November SLA meeting has been changed to Tuesday, November 30 @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.Φ

The Mission Statement of the  
**SANFORD LAKE  
ASSOCIATION !**

**"Mission: The Sanford Lake Association provides a collective voice for the common good of the property owners."**

If you think this is a worthy cause, please please join us, by being a member, and actively participating in the SLA. Your voice CAN make a difference.

Φ

## Where did the Dam water go?

By Ellen Peden

Jane, Dean, Ian and CJ Palmieri were sitting on their deck this August watching the water level drop and realizing, like the rest of us, that this was going to be a very different summer for lake front owners. Their thought was to make the most of it and flip it into a genuinely funny fundraiser by designing Tee Shirts to commemorate the summer of 2010 on Sanford Lake.

"Where'd the dam water go?" asks an angry beaver with his hands on his hips and his buck toothed scowl. The shirts went like wild fire, Jane said that a lakefront family with intentions of a family reunion bought shirts for their entire brood. Many similar celebrations turned into beach parties with our new shoreline.

Jane stated that with the help of **McCreadie printing**, **The Sanford Lake Bar and Grill**, **Pine View Grocery**, **Alex's Rail side**, and a little help from their friends the Palmieri's sold over 650 shirts! The proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated to the Sanford Lake Fireworks fund, almost \$3,000!

Jane and Dean remind us that it is worth seeking out the good (and the fun) in every frustrating situation. When the world gives us lemons.....make lemonade **and** funny tee shirts! Φ



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# A FLOOD PLAIN UPDATE

## **FEMA Acceptance ..... Next Steps and insurance policy premium refunds *may* be possible...**

Bob Johnson, Edenville Township Supervisor has passed on the following next steps for Lake Residents that are impacted by the FEMA Flood ruling. Per FEMA from the Midland Daily News article "*FEMA agrees: Homes shouldn't be in floodplain*" "Once the funding is assigned, the regulatory and mapping process can take 12-24 months to complete," Smith-Kuypers said in an e-mail. "Meanwhile, should a homeowner wish to have the high-risk flood designation removed from their home as soon as possible, they can complete a *Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA)*. Homeowners can submit water elevation data used in the Edenville LOMR study along with a LOMA application and the elevation data specific to their structure."

The Edenville Township is organizing a group effort to file Letter of Map Amendments (LOMA) for residents at as cost yet to be determined per property. Since most of the data is already generated, Edenville Township is partnering with two Engineering Firms in the area and they have agreed to do it at a reasonable cost. They will do everything including filling out and sending in the application for each resident that elects to participate. Bob said that FEMA will set up special processing for this bundled application and will have a 30 day turnaround. The plan would be to start the LOMA's around 2 months from now. Residents can also do this themselves if they so choose, but the SLA would recommend getting in on this group effort. For residents with mortgages here is what is suggested: 1) Contact the Edenville Township Office with Name , Phone No. and Address. Edenville Township 467 Moore Street, P.O. Box 24 Edenville, MI 48620 Phone: (989) 689-3655 People that do not have mortgages may not need to do anything as the process will take care of it in about 2-3 years. Situations such as needing a building permit or looking at selling your non-mortgaged residence before the 2-3 year process is completed should be discussed with the Edenville Township Office. *All questions should be directed to the Edenville Township Office.*

Note that if you live outside of Edenville Township, you should check with YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE regarding the above for *their* requirements. Also check at [sanfordlakeassociation.org](http://sanfordlakeassociation.org) for updates. ☐

