



www.SanfordLakeAssociation.org

P.O. Box 212
Sanford, MI 48657

SLA Newsletter – November 2016

Message from the SLA President

Adam Beebe

Your Sanford Lake Association (SLA) thanks all of you for another great year. The annual meeting in August was a success and we are happy to announce two new board members have joined the board and are already hard at work. Audrey Southcott has taken over as Secretary for the board and Loren Lower is working diligently on our Water Quality programs. In addition to these two new board members, Tamara McGovern and Tim Holsworth joined the board mid-year and have already become key members.

I would also like to thank the rest of the board for their commitment to the SLA and the betterment of the lake. Without their hard work and the involvement of our members we wouldn't be successful in all that we do.

We still have a lot to accomplish, and I'm excited for what the future has in store for the SLA and our lake. We will continue to monitor the water quality of the lake, keep you updated on the dam repairs and start laying the groundwork for another successful summer season in 2017.

Our work is never done, but we've hit some new records when it comes to overall members, resources raised and programs to protect the lake we all love. I want to thank you for your membership and ask that we work together to grow it even more.



Adam Beebe, SLA President

Sanford Dam Repair Progress Report

All you need to do is look at Sanford Lake and you can see that Boyce Hydro has indeed lowered the lake in order to make the repairs to the Edenville spillway.

The SLA Board has been monitoring the status of the project and repairs through conversations with Lee Mueller of Boyce Hydro and monitoring the various governmental organizations that govern Sanford Lake: FERC, DNR and DEQ. Additionally, on October 27th, board members Adam Beebe and Roger Briggs toured the repair site.

Lee Mueller gave a tour of the site and as you can see in the photos work has started on the project. Most of the prep work needed for the pouring of the concrete has been completed, and hopefully by the time you read this it will be poured.

As many of you have noticed the lake is lower than the normal winter drawdown level, it is actually 1-foot lower due to additional damages that were revealed during further inspections. That brings the current drawdown to four feet, but should be raised back up to the 3-foot winter drawdown level once work is complete, which is expected by November 30th.

The SLA Board, through conversations with Lee Mueller of Boyce Hydro and monitoring the communications by FERC, DNR and DEQ, believes the lake will remain in winter drawdown level of 3 feet until spring as originally communicated. If Boyce changes these plans we will notify our members at that time.

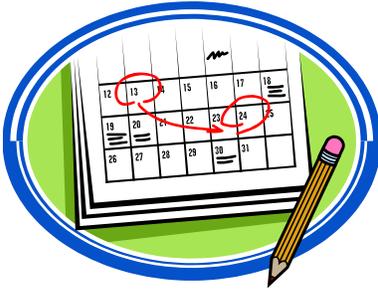


Adam Beebe, SLA President
Photographing Edenville spillway repairs



Spillway slab damage, center right of photo

Winter



Upcoming Lake Events

Enjoy winter and the holiday season, we'll see you in the Spring! We are never far away; if you need us please contact us:

www.SanfordLakeAssociation.org/contact-us

Why I Joined the Sanford Lake Association

by Tim Holsworth, SLA Board Member

Moving back to Sanford was a homecoming of sorts for me. I grew up here, my mother and brother live here, and my children, wife, and I went to school here (GO Mustangs!). It's home. But that's not why I joined the SLA. I like to be informed, and I like to get involved. The SLA allows both. As a lake front owner, it matters to me what's happening with the lake. And it likely matters to you too.

The SLA monitors weed control, erosion control, and water clarity. We communicate current news to members as we receive it. We are also a liaison between the lakefront owners and the ownership of the two dams. We organize and promote the fireworks celebration (with separate donations only). And much, much more. We are a group of concerned residents that do their best to do what's best for the lake...period. There are no salaries, stipends or other personal expenses paid out. We do this because we love Sanford Lake.

Dues are \$30 a year and are the best bargain on the planet, in addition to being tax deductible. Since you're reading this, you are likely a member and I thank you! But have you talked to your friends and neighbors about joining? Please do! There are over 1,800 households that have water access and only 337 (19%) are members. Let's all get involved and join the SLA! We have work to do!

Sanford Lake Association Membership

by Roger Briggs, SLA Board Member

Membership in the Sanford Lake Association for 2017 is critical to continuing these great projects and activities you see in this newsletter. Thanks so much for your support! 2016 marked our best year ever with 306 members and 2017 has already topped that. We currently stand at 337 members!

New members are welcome to join year round, and application forms are available on the SLA website: www.sanfordlakeassociation.org. Please forward this newsletter to your friends and neighbors who may not have joined.

Winter Recreational Lake Safety

by Ellen Peden, SLA Director

With cold temperatures and the prospect of frozen water in the near future we need to take a look at *safely* enjoying our winter recreational opportunities. Boating, sailing, jet skiing and swimming will soon be replaced with ice fishing, skating and snowmobiling. Sanford Lake offers great possibilities in all of these areas but some caution and safety-mindedness will ensure a positive, memorable winter. The Department of Natural Resources offers these simple guidelines regarding ice thickness: 2 inches or less, STAY OFF. At least 4 inches is needed for safe ice fishing and 5 inches for snowmobiling. The DNR also offers a color chart to help gauge safety.

If the ice is grey or mottled white/grey STAY OFF-- the ice is very weak. Additionally, if the ice appears to be white or opaque in color, it is still weak. It is SAFE when it is a transparent blue/black ice. An important consideration is that water currents, particularly around narrow spots, bridges and inlets are always susceptible to thin ice. Sanford Lake has a current that can affect area ice thickness. Some safety tips include: keeping a **ladder** nearby when you're on the ice, or placing **spikes** in your pockets attached to a rope that extends up your sleeves and around the back of your neck. A little precaution can make the ultimate difference, increasing your survival chances from break through. Remember, very cold water removes body heat 37 times faster than air. Your strength to pull yourself out of the water greatly diminishes in just a few minutes. Keep your family safe and continue to enjoy Sanford Lake year round!



Sanford Lake Monitoring Efforts—Algae Blooms *by Loren Lower and Bill Gebo, SLA Directors, Water Quality*

Did you wake up one morning in early September and wonder what the bright green sludge was on the surface of the lake? What you were seeing was a very severe algae bloom. Blooms occur quickly, often overnight. They generally occur in August and sometimes September. The hotter it is, the more frequently they occur and severity increases. This has been an unusually consistently hot summer (late summer water temperatures were 5 degrees warmer than the previous two years) and, together with the amount of phosphorous that is introduced over the summer, the conditions are ripe for blooms. Sanford Lake usually gets two or three per summer. This year, there have been more and, like that one, more severe.

Algae thrives in shallow, warm waters, such as Sanford Lake, in late summer and early fall when nutrients such as high levels of phosphorous are present. Phosphorous is introduced into the water as a result of faulty septic systems and farm field runoff. Sanford Lake has an extremely large watershed, providing ample sources of phosphorous.

There are a variety of algae. If they are suspended in the water column (planktonic), the individual organisms are not easily visible without a microscope. When algae multiplies overwhelmingly (filamentous), it becomes a green soup or foam on the surface. Some algae, such as various cyanobacterias, may produce toxins called microcystins. According to Paul Hausler, who acts as a consultant to Sanford Lake Improvement Board, the toxins are potentially harmful to humans and pets. Humans may experience skin irritation, but people of reasonable size would likely have to ingest gallons of water to become sick. Dogs, however, may ingest enough to become sick. Fish, on the other hand, are not affected as they don't ingest the toxins.

PLM, the weed treatment contractor for the entire lake, found some planktonic algae in the lake in mid-season, but in very low amounts. The main concern with algae until September was with filamentous algae. A majority of the planktonic algae bloomed at the end of the season, after treatments had been completed for the season and near the drawdown. Treatment for planktonic algae is difficult due to permit limitations on where and how algae can be targeted. According to Paul Hausler, the drawdown of the lake will help the algae situation for next season.

Algae treatment is often done with copper sulfate, which was in fact done a couple weeks prior to the large bloom, but was overwhelmed by the sheer size of the bloom. Sanford is a flow-through lake which is fed by a large watershed, so the retention time of the copper in the water is limited. The amount of phosphorous is key to algae growth. Sanford Lake, unfortunately, becomes a basin to receive phosphorous inflows from agricultural runoff and faulty septic fields over the course of the summer. It is hard to impact those inflows, although SLA has started a program to take phosphorous readings to look for patterns.

Our next meeting:

Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7 p.m.
106 Lincoln St.
Sanford, MI 48657

Please contact us:

We would like to hear your comments/concerns and how you think we are doing as an association.
www.SanfordLakeAssociation.org/contact-us

*We have Sanford Lake Gear for sale all the time, just contact us and let us know if you would like to purchase a t-shirt or a map of the lake.
Maps of the lake are drastically discounted for members.*



Sanford Lake Association Board of Directors

- Adam Beebe – President
 - Jeanette Snyder – Vice President
 - Kurt Partlo – Treasurer
 - Audrey Southcott – Secretary
 - Roger Briggs – Director/Membership
 - William Gebo – Director/Water Quality
 - Loren Lower – Director/Water Quality
 - Ellen Peden – Director/Fireworks
 - Tim Holsworth – Director/Membership, PR & Newsletters
 - Tamara McGovern – Director/PR & Newsletters
 - Lee Walko – Director/Website
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