



THANK YOU SANFORD LAKE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION!

By Ellen Peden

A legal contract was signed the week of Feb 21st between the attorneys of the **Sanford Lake Preservation Association** and Boyce Hydro Co (the owners of the Sanford Dam) to insure that the lake level will be brought up to its former safe boating and recreational depth starting in April 2011. Adam Beebe, the spokesperson for the association and a lake front owner, said that a group of concerned lake property owners banded together to contribute the \$83,000 necessary to complete the repairs on the dam in a timely fashion so that we all could enjoy the benefit of living on and enjoying a recreational lake this summer. The association members prefer to remain anonymous but all are lake front owners. Their group has been in contact with Boyce Hydro, and Local, State and Federal offices to create a legal document that **would insure that Boyce Hydro would begin the repairs and have them completed by the date in April mandated by the F.E.R.C.** (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission).

The association has members from all over the lake including the Flats, Francis Shores, Anna Lane, Sunset Way and others. Interest in the organization is growing, according to Mr. Beebe. **Their short-term goal was to raise the water level for the boating/fishing season 2011** and to recognize the possible future problems and concerns with the dam and its effect on the property owners. Bringing the water up was step one now working on the long-term solutions and determining the best way to move forward is step two for the organization. Want to contribute to help offset this huge bill? Go to their new web site sanfordlakepa.org or to our web site sanfordlakeassociation.org for a link to show your appreciation for a "make it happen" group of our neighbors.

The Boat Swap is on!



By Colette Urian

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 21 at the Lakeside Market location, M-30 at Dague Rd. Buy, sell or swap your boating and recreational equipment. The event will be held rain or shine. Last year's event had kayaks, jet skis, four wheelers and puppies!



Hurray! The fireworks are on!

By Ellen Peden

Last week the spokesperson for the Sanford Lake Preservation Association called to confirm that the lake would be restored to its full recreational level. So the Sanford Lake Association Fireworks display is back in its planning stages for the summer of 2011. **Our launch date is Saturday July 2nd with a rain date on Sunday July 3rd.** These dates were selected by the SLA membership last August at our annual membership meeting. The Wolverine Fireworks Co. will provide another spectacular presentation with the help from contributions from our lake front owners.

Last year we had \$8,000 dollars of brilliant fireworks pounding the sky. The contribution from the Palmieri family of close to \$3000 from the proceeds of their t-shirt sales from last year will provide an extra special evening of dazzling pyrotechnics. The fireworks will be launched from the same spot as last year at the Community of Christ Campground on the lake's west side (the cove). The public is invited to view the show from the campground or from their boats. Watch for the flier and please donate!

TALKING POINTS WHEN CONTACTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES/REPRESENTATIVES

If the lake level is lowered significantly for any extended period of time it will have the following effects:

1. Sanford area businesses will be severely impacted. The marinas, restaurants, gas stations, bait shops, and others who depend on the lake users for much of their revenue will lose significant income. Some will fail.
2. Property owners will see an adverse impact on their property. In an area already experiencing a depressed housing market this would be devastating.
3. Lower property values and closed businesses will result in lower tax revenues, affecting all Midland county residents' services.
4. The Sanford Lake plant and animal environment; including the fishery would be affected severely. Spawning issues and die offs would be possible. Shoreline species like mink, muskrat, and otter would suffer, as would turtles and frogs.
5. The shoreline and lake bottom would be impacted. Weed control efforts and erosion would be areas of concern.
6. Access to the lake would be limited. Most, if not all, recreational activities would be limited if not completely eliminated. Thousands of lake visitors would be denied recreation.
7. Activities on/near the lake would be cancelled. Fishing tournaments, Triathlons, concerts, and annual fireworks displays are just some of the events that would be impacted. Thousands of visitors enjoy these events and would be denied this enjoyment.

Contact Information for our Elected Officials

Governor Rick Snyder

P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
PHONE: (517) 373-3400
PHONE: (517) 335-7858 - Constituent Services
FAX : (517) 335-6863
E-MAIL: Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov

Attorney General Bill Schuette

G. Mennen Williams Building
7th Floor 525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-1110
FAX: (517) 373-3042
E-mail: miag@michigan.gov

State Representative Jim Stamas

153 Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-1791
Toll Free: (800) 626-8887
E-mail: JimStamas@house.mi.gov

State Representative Kevin Cotter

S-1288 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-1789
E-mail: KevinCotter@house.mi.gov

State Senator John Moolenaar

PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
Phone: (517) 373-7946
E-mail: Sen|Moolenaar@senate.michigan.gov

United States Representative Dave Camp

135 Ashman Street
Midland, MI 48640
Phone: (989) 631-2552
FAX: (989)631-6271
Toll Free: 1-800-342-2455
E-mail: <http://camp.house.gov/Contact/>

United States Senator Debbie Stabenow

Mid-Michigan Office
221 W. Lake Lansing Road, Suite 100
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: (517)202-1760
E-mail: <http://stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact>

United States Senator Carl Levin

515 N. Washington Avenue, Suite 402
Saginaw, MI 48607-1370
Phone: (989) 754-2494
Fax: (989) 754-2920
E-mail and Contact Center:
<http://levin.senate.gov/contact/>

MEET YOUR BOARD: Lee Walko

By Rick Terwilliger

Lee Walko joined the SLA Board last year and has proven himself an invaluable asset. He was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, and relocated to Michigan in 1984. He worked for Dow Chemical and now runs his own business, Walko Consulting LLC. Lee and his wife, Patti, have been married for 24 years have two sons.

He has had a cottage on Sanford Lake since 2009. Lee's hobbies include bowling, computers, and web page development.

You can see a sample of Lee's web page development handiwork at our website, sanfordlakeassociation.org. As our webmaster Lee keeps the site up to date and provides links to numerous other sites as well as up to date information on various topics from ice safety to dam repair.

Lee has also taken on the responsibility of being our liaison to the FERC. In this capacity he has not only communicated our concerns to them, but has also obtained copies of numerous communications concerning the dam issue.

Thanks Lee, we appreciate your commitment to Sanford Lake and the SLA!



Join the Sanford Lake Association!

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

Mailing address (if different)

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues are \$20.00 per year.

Send to Sanford Lake Association, PO Box 212,
Sanford, MI 48657

SLA Board Acts as Dam Issues Develop

By Bill Gebo

As representatives of the lakefront property owners, the SLA board felt it necessary to investigate, intercede, and communicate with regard to the issues with Boyce Hydro and the Sanford dam. This has included the tax foreclosure and longer term concerns, as well as the dam repairs. Early in 2010, the board became aware of Boyce's tax issues, and was concerned about the possible negative consequences for the lake and property owners. With that in mind, the board voted at its April 20 meeting to create a three person team with the mandate to communicate with Boyce, township and village governments, county government, and other parties potentially beneficial to finding solutions for problems that might negatively impact the lake. Team members are Sharron Such, Lee Walko, and Bill Gebo.

This team has met with various members of the County Commission, Roger Garner--County Emergency Management Coordinator, and several times with Lee Mueller of Boyce Hydro. They have also talked with the Gladwin County Treasurer and have maintained a regular dialogue with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency that oversees hydro power projects, including Sanford Lake.

As the dam repairs and the drawdown took center stage last summer, the team began to post information regularly on the SLA website, including correspondence between Boyce and FERC (obtained from FERC e-Library). Lake residents have been checking the website regularly, with over 16,000 visits to date. SLA plans to continue regular postings as new information becomes available.

Once Boyce announced that it did not have the funds to complete the repair work, public interest dramatically increased. The SLA board has gotten fully involved. Lee Mueller of Boyce spoke at the September board meeting, and with SLA assistance, he was invited to speak at the Sanford Lake Improvement Board's December meeting. The SLA board has since also coordinated with DNR, various elected officials, and the Sanford Lake Preservation Association (representing those lakefront property owners who contributed the \$83,000 to complete the dam repairs). The last two board meetings have included representatives of SLPA, the Midland County Commission, and Rep. Dave Camp's office. In addition, State Representative Kevin Cotter appeared personally.

The SLA will continue to work on dam-related issues and participate in shaping long term solutions for the preservation of the recreational uses of Sanford Lake. The SLA board invites every member to attend upcoming board meetings and invites all lake residents to check the SLA website (www.sanfordlakeassociation.org) for future updates. The board plans to send a letter in March to all lake residents recapping the issues and inviting residents to visit the website to fill out a survey dealing with possible long term solutions and presenting their opinions.

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SANFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION?

By Chris Streeter

The Sanford Lake Association (SLA) was first organized in 1998 to provide a forum for concerns about the stewardship of our lake and to bring together the citizens which surround Sanford Lake. *Its continuing mission is to provide a collective voice for the common good of the property owners.* Its purpose is to encourage communication, cooperation, and understanding between all law abiding users of the lake; provide community awareness through safety and educational programs; explore and implement opportunities to improve, maintain, and protect our waterways; provide and/or promote community activities; and provide a liaison to work with law enforcement agencies and local government.

The last several months have been unusual and frustrating (to say the least) for all those who use and enjoy Sanford Lake. The SLA has done its best to keep all interested individuals informed of the lake levels and current status of repairs to the dam's dike. In addition, we have also been communicating and working with local, state, and federal government agencies concerning the future of our lake. In response, we believe, these agencies have increased the pressure on Boyce Hydro Power LLC to make the needed repairs sooner than planned and not hold the property owners hostage to their reported financial inadequacies.

In addition to our activities, a group of community-minded individuals have organized and offered the finances necessary to complete the dike repairs.

The Sanford Lake Association
PO Box 212
Sanford, MI 48657-0212

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

This group is the Sanford Lake Preservation Association (SLPA) and we urge you to support their efforts. The SLA and SLPA are both interested in finding a long-term solution to dam maintenance and repair issues in an effort to keep our lake usable and at normal levels.

We have been given a “wake-up-call” to maintain a greater interest and involvement in the activities which affect our lake and we need your help. We need you to join SLA. With over 1,100 property owners around the lake, the SLA has fewer than 120 active members. We need a stronger voice to advocate for Sanford Lake. With more members the SLA will have a bigger voice, and with that comes a greater influence on our lake's future. The vision and future of the SLA is determined by its members. We are continuing our plans for the future including: newsletters, the website, speakers of interest, lake improvement activities, a spring “boater's swap”, an annual election and BBQ, and of course, the continuation of the 4th of July fireworks. We need your input to keep the SLA strong, fresh, and active.

WON'T YOU JOIN US? The current membership period is from September 2010 through August 2011, with only 1 year memberships available. Annual dues are \$20. If you have already paid membership dues during 2010 you are an active member until September 2011.

To become a member complete the application form on page 3 and return to: SLA; P.O. Box 212; Sanford, MI; 48657-0212.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SLA WILL BE TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
00000