



Fish Shelters *Found* in Clam Lake!

On June 5th, as part of their monthly training, two members from the Antrim County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Dive Team conducted a training exercise using the fish shelters on Clam Lake as the "drowning victim" or "sunken boat". Supported by Friends of Clam Lake (FoCL) members Art Hoadley and Paul Sak, and an ACSO Marine Division patrol boat to monitor the dive areas, three shelter structures at each of the four sites currently deployed in Clam Lake were located and mapped with accurate GPS coordinates.



Clam Lake.

On June 18th, fish shelters at two more locations were deployed. The Friends of Clam Lake have now deployed six of the nine permitted sites for

We still need help for the construction and deployment of the final 3 locations later this summer. If

interested, please send an email to

friendsofclamlake@hotmail.com.



For the exact GPS locations of the deployed sites on Clam Lake and the Chain-of-Lakes, check out our website at www.friendsofclamlake.com. Go to the Fish Shelters page.

Clam Lake Loon Project

For the first time in over four years the Clam Lake loon family has two chicks! The young loons are now five weeks old. The parents are starting to leave them on their own for short periods of time but so far the siblings have been staying close together. The loons made their nest at the East end of Clam on an artificial nesting island (ANI)



that is a collaborative effort between Grass River Natural Area, FoCL, and the Chain of Lakes Loon Network. The adult male loon was fitted with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tag and colored I.D. bands in 2010 by loon researcher Joe Kaplan from the Seney National

Wildlife Refuge. The bird has returned to Clam each season since then but it is believed this year's pairing is with a new female.

Assisting nesting loons by providing man made platforms has been very successful on the chain of lakes. This summer, as of June 18, there is a loon pair on an ANI on Six Mile Lake, three pairs on ANI's with one chick on



Intermediate Lake, two pairs on ANI's with a total of three chicks on Lake Bellaire, and a pair on an ANI on Torch River in the Torch Bayou area. Additionally, loons have been observed on natural nests on Benway Lake, the Intermediate River near Lake Bellaire, and on Lake Skegemog.

With all these loons in the area you have a good chance of spotting a loon especially during the early morning hours when they fly from lake to lake for social gatherings. If you have never seen a loon land on water, which is the only place they land since their legs are too far back in their bodies to walk, it is worth checking out! They come in fast, let their legs dangle behind and land on their bellies. They can skid on the surface for over twenty feet! When you're boating on Clam Lake near the mouth of Grass River look for

the two loon nesting area advisor buoys and ANI. If you're lucky, you might see the proud pair and their chicks and remember to keep your distance so you don't scare them. Loons demand lots of space, especially when they have young.

Friends of Clam Lake Annual Meeting

Your organization's annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 3 at the Grass River Natural Area Education Center. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. Hear Mark Stone, Antrim County Operator of Dams, talk about lake levels, Elk Rapids power dam re-licensing, and a new project on Grass River to improve habitat and reduce the buildup of sediment. The annual business meeting will be held following Mark's presentation and a brief question and answer session. Learn about FoCL projects, vote for your officers and board of directors and meet other members who love Clam Lake as much as you do! The annual meeting is also a great time to find out about opportunities to get involved in organizational activities or as a volunteer out on the lake. Don't miss this once a year event!

It's Not Too Late!!!

Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Boat Legal Get Your Boating Safety Certificate (BSC)

The Antrim County Sheriff's Office has two more scheduled exams this summer - see schedule below. You, your children, grandchildren, friends, and relatives are encouraged to participate.

Three simple and flexible steps for all participants (youth and adults):

Boat Smart - Study the Michigan Course Book or take a web-based course - or both - at your own pace from your own home. For the on-line classes see www.michigan.gov/boating. Course Books are available at the Antrim County Sheriff's Office (Bellaire) for those registered for an exam.

Boat Safe - Take a proctored exam at your local sheriff's office or at one of Antrim County's morning exams shown below. All of these services are provided at **no charge to the public**.

Boat Legal - Many of the boating laws have changed, so you need to be up-to-date with the current law. Of particular importance are **new requirements to have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC)**:

Boats - Any person born after July 1, 1996, must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) to operate any boat with a motor greater than 6 hp. So this

summer, depending on exact birth dates, anyone 16 years old or younger and even some 17 years olds will need a BSC now and for the rest of their lives.

PWCs (Jet Skis) - Any person born after December 31, 1978, must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) to operate any **personal water craft** (PWC/Jet Ski). So, if you're not yet 35 years old, you must have and carry on board your BSC.

Participants who believe they will be ready to take the proctored exam can reserve a spot in any of these three events. Registration is required. You can register by email to BoatSmartSafeLegal@charter.net. Please provide the desired exam date, name, phone, and email address for each participant. You can also register by phone to the respective number listed below. The programs all start at 9:00 a.m. and end at Noon. The programs include registration, local ordinance review, Q&A, proctored exam, and certificate issue - at no cost to the participants.

Date	Exam Location	Phone
July 22 Mon	Torch Lake Yacht Club 10280 Larson Rd, Bellaire	248-770-5050
July 27 Sat	Elk Rapids Police Dept. 321 Bridge Street, Elk Rapids	231-947-1619

NOTE: If your schedule does not permit you to attend one of the two events listed above, phone (231) 533 - 8627 ext.1 for an appointment to take the proctored exam at the Antrim County Sheriff Office in Bellaire.

Membership Cottie Volle, Membership Chair

To date, 133 members.....Thank you for mailing in your checks in such timely fashion!
One small favor?
Could each of you ask your neighbors if they have joined our association? I will happily mail anyone another application. Just let me know!

Friends of Clam Lake

P.O. Box 173, Alden, MI 49612

Board of Directors

President: Fred Sittel

Vice-President: Bob Hockenberger

Secretary: Mary Frost

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Directors at Large:

Cottie Volle

Larry Schwab

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FoCL is a member driven organization dedicated to the protection of Clam Lake and its environment for all to enjoy.

www.friendsofclamlake.com