



Friends of Clam Lake

Newsletter Summary

Spring 2012

Improved Fishing -- Safer Boating -- Cleaner Waters -- Nature at Its Best

A Message To All Who Enjoy Clam Lake

The above goals are not a lofty dream or some political year promises. This is what the Friends of Clam Lake (FoCL) is all about. The organization is open to all who care about Clam Lake. Please take a few minutes to learn more, and then consider joining our journey for Clam Lake. **Details can be found at our website: www.friendsofclamlake.com**

Fish Shelters Project (Improved Fishing) - After a year of detailed planning and discussions, the Friends of Clam Lake (FoCL), working with six other organizations, should soon start construction and deployment of fish shelters at 82 locations in Clam Lake, Intermediate Lake, Lake Bellaire, Torch Lake and Elk Lake. The project is awaiting final approval from the Michigan DEQ. Volunteers and donations needed.

Boating Safety Certificate & Exam (Safer Boating) - The Antrim County Sheriff's Office introduces its 2012 boater safety initiative - **Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Boat Legal.** FoCL is one of the supporting groups for the Boating Safety Exam. It takes three easy steps:

- Study and understand the Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities: Handbook or On-line Courses
- Take the Boating Safety Exam offered by the Sheriff's Office on one of the scheduled dates
- Pass the proctored Exam; receive a Boating Safety Certificate (no charge to the public)

This is for you, your children, grandchildren, friends and relatives. It's an investment of time that's good for life - theirs and yours! Course Info, Exam Schedule, and Registration details on our website.

Grass River Education Events - Jointly sponsored by FoCL, GRNA, TLPA and TLA. Free admission!

- **June 19, 2012, Tuesday** - Alden Depot, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Subject: Got Fish? The Fisheries in the Chain-of-Lakes

- Fish Shelter Habitats: What can you do near-shore and in deeper water?
- Elk Lake "Relict" Trout: What does this discovery mean for the future?
- Invasive Species: Knowledge and then action on what can be done.

- **August 14, 2012, Tuesday** - Alden Depot, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Subject: Antrim County Underground

- Mancelona TCE (trichloroethylene) Plume: An Update
- Hydraulic fracturing for gas and oil exploration: An Update

Each event is followed by a social gathering with appetizers, wine and soft drinks.

Clam Lake Boat Capacity Study - Our fourth annual "boat count" helps us document and understand what's really happening on Clam Lake. Scheduled date is **Saturday, July 14, 2012.** Volunteers are needed.

Friends of Clam Lake Annual Meeting

Get Involved, Meet Your Neighbors, Project Updates, Annual Elections, Refreshments will be served

Date: **Saturday, August 4, 2012**

Time: 9:00 am - Registration 9:30 am - 10:30 am - Meeting

Location: Grass River Education Center, 6500 Alden Highway (the new building!)

2012 Membership Drive

Dear Members & Supporters,

Spring has sprung; the ice has melted; and summer is a month away. Now, seems like an ideal time for each of us to examine the individual efforts we have made during the past year to preserve our Up North treasure.

Did we take care to avoid fertilizing the lake when we worked on our yards in the spring? Have we made an effort to keep or plant native vegetation near the shore to filter possible contaminants? Did we take care when refueling our boats to avoid unwelcome spills? When boating, did we avoid dredging the lake bottom? Were we careful not to litter the lake with paper or cans? Did we strive to protect the loons, their chicks and other wildlife by observing them from a distance? Did we build our beach fires back from the water and dispose of the ashes away from the shore? Did we dump the fall leaves far from the water's edge? Did we take ecological care when cleaning our boats, using our ice shanties and ice fishing? Did we make an effort to be considerate of our fellow boaters, fishermen, swimmers and others enjoying the lake? Basic no brainers, right; custodians that we are!

As Friends of Clam Lake, we will continue to educate, and vigilantly strive to care and protect our treasure. To do this, we need member participation. **Please renew your membership and/or join us today in all of our efforts.** And please, let us know you care; share your concerns and suggestions. **May our children's children enjoy our lake, as we have been so privileged to do!**

Cottie Volle, Membership Chairperson & Board Member

See Membership Application. Thank you for your continued support.

For more information, check our website at www.friendsofclamlake.com or send us a note: Friends of Clam Lake, P. O. Box 173, Alden, MI 49612.

Fish Shelters Project (Improved Fishing) - A complete brochure is available. Learn more on how to get involved in the construction, deployment or fund raising phases. **Consider a tax-deductible donation:** \$25 helps purchase material; \$50 helps construct one shelter design; and for \$150, you can sponsor a full shelter location! Checks should be made out to "The Watershed Center - Fish Shelters Project" and sent to The Watershed Center, 13272 S. West Bay Shore Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684.

Did You Know? (Safer Boating) - Age restrictions and certificate requirements for legally operating a boat vary slightly from those for operating a personal water craft (PWC). **For anyone not yet 34 years old**, the law states that you must have and carry your Boating Safety Certificate on board to legally operate a PWC. **Are you or your guests legal?** Check our website for information on the **Boating Safety Certificate & Exam.**

Grass River Sedimentation Project - Since the Grass River is an important key to the continued water quality on Clam Lake, FoCL continues its partnership with GRNA, TLA and Tip of the Mitt Watershed.

Dewitt Marine Update on Wetlands Fill Project - Check our website for the latest information.

Chain-of-Lakes Photo Book - Images of our Chain-of-Lakes to proudly display at your home.

Loon Nursery - Nesting and protection for the Clam Lake pair and hopefully their loon babies.

Invasive Species - Continued emphasis on Eurasian Milfoil

Boat Navigation/Safety - Vigilance and review of projects on Clam Lake