

Little Platte Lake Association

May 2008 Newsletter

LPL Gets a Fish Count

When the Board met with DNR Fish Biologist Todd Kalish in May, there seemed little chance of a new fish survey at Little Platte Lake. The last DNR survey was back in 1981, but fish surveys are a low priority for a state agency whose funds have been cut. It was a surprise, then, when Kalish advised Ronnie Brown that the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians had agreed to conduct a fish count at our lake, with no charge to us.

From July 30 through August 2 the Tribe set nets and collected over 300 scale samples from bluegill, pumpkinseed, largemouth bass, rock bass and smallmouth bass. Summarizing the results of the survey, Tribe Fish and Wildlife Biologist Brett Fessell said:

“In general, you have a productive and high quality panfish fishery Keep up the good work. Near-shore habitat/structure is key.”

Learn more at our Annual Meeting June 21st!



John Christian didn't need a fish survey to tell him the bass fishing is good on Little Platte Lake!

LPLA Web Site: www.littleplattelake.org

Keith Farley does a great job maintaining our web site, providing useful information about the lake and LPLA. Be sure to check out the pictures, and let Keith know if you have a photo to share.

Election of Directors

Under our Bylaws the business of the Association is managed by five Directors, each of whom serves a one-year term. The Directors are chosen from the members, and nominations may be made “by the Board of Directors or by any member entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.” Following their election at the Annual Meeting the Directors elect from themselves the LPLA officers: a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and two Trustees.

All of the existing Board members have expressed their willingness to serve another term, and the Board is nominating them for election. However, this does not foreclose other nominations submitted in writing prior to the Annual Meeting on June 21 or at the meeting from the floor. **Any member wishing to run for election or to nominate another member for election to the Board should advise Secretary Gretchen Staub in writing as soon as possible. Anyone willing to serve on a Committee or to serve on the Board at some future date should so indicate on the membership renewal form. We welcome your interest and participation!**

Finally, voting rights may be exercised by members “either in person or by proxy duly signed, witnessed and filed with the Secretary prior to or at the time of any Association meeting.” While the Board is unaware of any contested issues this year, anyone wishing to vote at this year’s meeting by proxy should contact Secretary Gretchen Staub in accordance with the cited Bylaw provision. **The Board will give notice of additional nominations or Agenda items on the LPLA web site prior to the 6/21/08 meeting.**

Time to Renew!

Membership dues at Little Platte Lake Association run from June 1 through May 31. That means it’s time to renew your membership. The basic membership remains \$15 a year, but the Board has added new categories for those willing to make a more generous tax-deductible contribution: “Supporting” at \$25, “Contributing” at \$50 and “Other” with no amount specified. **For everyone’s convenience we have enclosed with this newsletter a self-addressed return envelope that also serves as a renewal form. Just complete the form, enclose your check, stamp the envelope and drop it in the mail.**

-John Ester, Treasurer

[More Chicks in Our Future?](#)

The Loon Platform

Last year we followed the advice of the Michigan Loon Preservation Association and built and installed a floating platform for the loons to use to build their nest. The result? Good news and bad. On the plus side, a pair of loons found and used the platform, laying two healthy-looking eggs. On the less happy side, the loons abandoned their eggs before they were hatched--presumably scared off by something or someone.

This year we will be trying again with the platform, placing it a little farther from the loons' traditional nesting spot near the mouth of the river. We hope the loons will build their nest there and that with a more secluded location curious on-lookers will keep their distance. As we learned last year, loons are very skittish and will leave their eggs if threatened. **Please pass the word to family members, friends and visitors: avoid getting close to the platform. If you get close enough to see a loon sitting on the nest, you are probably too close!**

The Eagle Nest

After raising 8 chicks over the three previous years, our bald eagles last year took a break from parenting. This

year they appear to be back on task. As of mid-April, one of them had been on the nest 24/7 for more than three weeks, presumably sitting on eggs.

Breeding in the eagle world is not easy. After the brief fun part, one or the other of the pair (they both incubate) must sit on 1-3 eggs all day every day for more than a month. Then when the chicks are hatched, the adults must feed and protect them for another 70-98 days before the chicks fledge. Even then, the adults' duties are far from over. While the young eagles learn to fish, they continue to look to their parents for food. By the 4th of July (when the photo below was taken in 2006) the chicks are as large as their parents but are still pestering them for food. **Let's hope that by the time of our Annual Meeting in June we can report both loon and eagle chicks!**

-John Ester



Watch Those Watts!

Light pollution affects many natural cycles, including algae growth. An article in the *Michigan Lake & Stream Associations* newsletter warns that leaving lights on near water can affect water quality. Due to the reflective nature of water, light around a lake will scatter. Studies have shown that zooplankton, small invertebrates that feed on surface algae at night, may be deterred from feeding if it is not dark enough. This can cause algae blooms that kill off the lake's plants and lower water quality.

MLSA encourages us to do our part by using outdoor lights only when necessary. If lights are needed, use only ones that shine directly on the ground beneath them. Finally, reduce the wattage in your outdoor lights. You will be saving energy and helping our natural inhabitants maintain their lifestyles (and keeping your neighbors across the lake happy!).

-Gretchen Staub

Annual Meeting Agenda* Saturday June 21, 2008 Homestead Township Hall in Honor

Call to Order: Ronnie Brown
Secretary's Report: Minutes of '07 Annual Meeting
Treasurer's Report: Proposed Budget
Water Level Report: Lynn Walker
Water Quality Report: Dave Van Hammen
Fishery Report: Ronnie Brown
MLSA Plant Mapping: Gretchen Staub
Bird Report: John Ester
Website: Keith Farley
Old Business
New Business

- Election of 5 directors for 2008 - 2009
- Q & A with DNR Officer (tentative)
- 2009 Annual Meeting

***Any member wishing to add an item to the Agenda should advise any Board member ASAP. Check our website at www.littleplattellake.org for any last minute Agenda changes.**

Highlights: June 16, 2007 Annual Meeting at Homestead Twp Hall
(The meeting Minutes are posted in their entirety on the LPLA website)

Ronnie Brown called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m. **The Minutes of the 2006 meeting were approved as presented, as were the Treasurer's report and proposed budget.** Ronnie noted that the Membership Committee would be contacting non-members over the summer to encourage them to join.

Lynn Walker reported on the water level at the dam and in the watershed. Dry conditions have caused the water level to be lower than the court-ordered 586.7' above sea level. LPLA had the dam surveyed last year, and a piece of angle iron installed and notched, permitting everyone to check the water level at a glance. Terry Money, Benzie County Drain Commissioner, is responsible for monitoring the water level.

John Ester said the Loon Committee had installed a floating platform that the loons appeared to be nesting on. John gave an update on the injured white pelican that had been rescued on the lake and discussed the bird die-off that had occurred on Lake Michigan beaches. Bea Lavender noticed that one of the old duck blinds had been removed, for which Ronnie and John were thanked.

Ronnie Brown gave the fishery report, noting that we are on the DNR's waiting list for a fish survey. Until then it appears that the fish are holding their own and that fishing is good, although that depends on which fisherman you ask!

Dave Van Hammen explained how he and Jim Dodge and Lou Glatzer collect water samples that are taken to Cadillac and tested for clarity, phosphorous and chlorophyll. Results are published through CLMP and will be available on line. **Gretchen Staub explained that we are conducting a plant mapping program** on the lake to monitor native plants and watch for invasive species. This will be a two-year project, and Gretchen will need help to collect the plants.

Keith Farley maintains and constantly updates our web site. When new information is posted on the web site, LPLA Board will send e-mail notices to members providing an e-mail address.

Old Business: Ronnie shared the results of last year's questionnaire to members.

New Business: Dave Van Hammen explained how garlic mustard, an invasive plant growing in our area, can be eradicated with an herbicide such as Roundup. We have a link on our website to The Northern Michigan Onsite Wastewater Task Force.

Lou Glatzer ran the election for Board members. The Board's appointment of John Ester as Treasurer following Chuck Retallick's resignation was approved. After reading portions of the Bylaws, Lou advised that the Board had nominated the five present members for another term. He asked for nominations from the floor. There were none, and **the five present members were reelected by acclamation.**

The meeting was adjourned shortly before noon. **Next year's meeting will be on Saturday, June 21 at 10 o'clock at the Homestead Township Hall.**

LPLA
PO Box 284
Honor, MI 49640



Little Platte Lake Association

LPLA is a voluntary association of owners of property surrounding Little Platte Lake. We are a charitable organization formed to preserve and protect Little Platte Lake and its environs.

Board Members

President:	Ronnie Brown	325-2401	twinbirchresort@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Gretchen Staub	325-0077	gretstaub@centurytel.net
Treasurer:	John Ester	325-2445	jester625@earthlink.net
Trustee:	Dave Van Hammen	325-2170	daud@maui.net
Trustee:	Lynn Walker	325-6654	walkerlonnie2003@yahoo.com

Visit our web site at: www.littleplattelake.org

