



Plant Mapping Continues

At last year's annual meeting Gretchen Staub reported that a two-year study of the aquatic plants of Little Platte Lake was underway. The work will continue this summer, but in the meantime Gretchen has provided a summary (now posted on our web site) of the 2008 plant mapping efforts.

With the help of John Christian, Don Franck, Sandy McCoy and Chuck Retallick, much of the lake was surveyed last summer. Fourteen different species of aquatic plants were identified, as well as two types of water lilies and several shoreline plants such as cattails and phragmites.

This summer the work will continue on the wild southeastern shore of the lake, from the river to the eagle's nest. Once again Gretchen will count on our loyal members for support. [Learn more at our June Meeting!](#)

A resident enjoys the Michigan Holly along Dunes Edge Drive.



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 are running for reelection (in effect having nominated themselves). Likewise, former Board member Lou Glatzer has expressed his desire to run for election. This does not foreclose additional nominations before or at the Annual Meeting. Anyone else interested in serving on the Board or on a Committee should so indicate on the membership renewal form. We welcome your interest and participation!

Under our Bylaws, 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 additional candidates may emerge, **a proxy form based on present information is including on the renewal envelope for those unable to attend the meeting.**

Note that the proxy must be signed, witnessed and returned before the meeting. In addition, the vote will be counted only if the proxy is accompanied by a dues payment for the upcoming year. Finally, remember that all dues are individual (i.e., there are no family dues).

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. **Please note that under our Bylaws all memberships are individual. Thus, if two members of a family wish to be members, both must pay dues. 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.**

Loon Chicks in Our Future?

Last year we moved the loon platform to a more secluded location. The result? The loons turned up their noses (beaks?) at the platform. What's worse, they did not build a nest at any other location on the lake.

So this year with the generous help of Dave Packer of Miller's Hideaway Resort (who furnished an access point, boat and motor prior to the start of the season) we installed the platform closer to the loons' traditional nesting spot near the mouth of the river. But the loons eschewed the platform again! While the loons apparently built a nest in the same general area (see photo below), a couple of days later no loon was present.



What the loons do next is anybody's guess. What we do know is that loons are very skittish and will leave their

eggs if threatened. **Please pass the word to family, friends and visitors: If you see a loon on a nest, back off, as you are probably too close!**

The Eagles

For the first time in at least ten years, our resident eagles did not use their nest this year. Their chick-raising efforts have been unsuccessful the last two years, and they may well have abandoned their old nest.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of a new nest, let us know. Otherwise, we can keep our eyes open and watch the antics of the immature eagle that has been patrolling the lake in recent days (something the adults would not have allowed had they been nesting). The young eagle is pictured below.



Grand Traverse Band & Little Platte Lake

Last year we reported on the fish count taken on our lake by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians under the direction of Tribe Fish and Wildlife Biologist Brett Fessell. This year the GTB continues its efforts in our area, this time pursuant to a federal grant to improve the Platte River Watershed.

Thus far Mr. Fessell and his group have been working to restore the bank and access to the Platte River in Honor. The next part of the project will be to replace the culverts at Otter Creek with a timber bridge. In the same area the tribe is conducting research on brook trout. Among other things, they are placing "PIT" tags on trout to determine the extent to which they are migrating into Lake Michigan.

We have asked Brett Fessell to give a brief presentation at our Annual Meeting that should be of interest to all. Who knows, he may even be able to give fishing tips (not that any of our members need them!)

Annual Meeting Agenda* Saturday June 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Homestead Township Hall in Honor

- Call to Order: Ronnie Brown
- Update - GTBand Biologist Brett Fessell
- Secretary's Report: Minutes of '08 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
- Web Site: Keith Farley
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Election of 5 directors for 2009 - 2010
 - Lake Observer Contacts

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

**Highlights: June 21, 2008 Annual Meeting at Homestead Twp Hall
(The Minutes are posted in their entirety on the LPLA website)**

The Little Platte Lake Association held its annual meeting on June 21 at the Homestead Township Hall in Honor. Members learned what the Association had accomplished since the last annual meeting. LPLA continues to monitor the water level of the lake in relation to that ordered by the Benzie County Court. The loon platform placed on the lake with DNR approval turned out to be a mallard duck platform in 2008. After efforts to obtain a fish count from the DNR fizzled, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians stepped up and conducted a survey in July of 2007, the results of which were discussed. Water testing and plant mapping efforts are continuing at the lake.

The business portion of the meeting was recessed for a brief presentation on boat safety by Deputies Ted Schendel and Rick Robbins from the Marine Patrol Division of the Benzie County Sheriff's Office (pictured below). After their talk on boat safety the deputies answered questions from the members as to such things as registration requirements and reporting offending boaters.

The members then elected directors to serve on the Board until next year's meeting: President Ronnie Brown, Secretary Gretchen Staub, Treasurer John Ester, and Trustees Lynn Walker and Dave Van Hammen. Minutes of the meeting and further information about LPLA can be found at www.littleplattelake.org

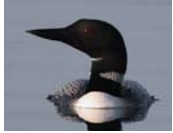


Officer Schendel addresses the crowd while Officer Robbins looks on.



LPLA members socialize after the business meeting.

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

