

Little Platte Lake Association

May 2010 Newsletter

Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 26!

There are several compelling reasons to attend this year's annual meeting on Saturday, June 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the Homestead Township Hall on US-31 in Honor:

Get Official LPLA Apparel

Once again you will have an opportunity to buy apparel bearing the LPLA loon logo. This year we will have tee shirts, sweatshirts and caps available for your purchase. Come early, as supplies are limited.

Get the Latest in Lake News

As usual we will have reports on everything from water levels to invasive species to fish stories (maybe we'll learn how Ronnie Brown caught that monster bass pictured on the right!). Greet your neighbors from around the lake and find out what has happened on the lake since last year's meeting.



Elect 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). This does not foreclose additional nominations before or at the Annual Meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Board or on a Committee should so indicate on the membership renewal form. We welcome your interest and participation!

Learn About Lake Birds and Wildlife

Long-time birder and current Benzie Audubon Club President John Ester will give a Power Point presentation featuring some of the more interesting birds and animals seen around our lake. John will show photos (all of which were taken within the LPLA membership area) and provide the latest news on the reproductive efforts of our eagles and loons. He also will touch on bird migration, feeding birds (can you feed birds without feeding those pesky rodents?) and surprise visitors to the lake.



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.

LPLA Web Site:

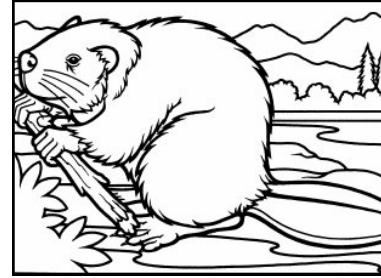
www.littleplattelake.org

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.

Walker versus the Damn Dam Beaver!

For three days running Walker battled the beaver at the Deadstream dam, removing large quantities of sticks and brush. After the fourth day Walker claimed victory . . . only to return on the fifth day and find that the damn dam beaver had done it again!

Walker has now claimed victory, as the dam beaver has yet to return. Now the real question: Was it a beaver or just brush and debris from high water and erosion?



Water Level Information

In late March there were two complaints about the low lake level. Although our lake level guru Lynn Walker says that March is too early to judge the lake level, in his absence the county responded to the complaints by putting **three** boards in the Deadstream dam. The winter runoff from the watershed was not complete, we received additional rain, and the lake ended up 5" to 6" above the court-ordered level.

On May 1 (as the result of Lynn's efforts) the county removed one of the three boards. As of May 13 the level was still 2.10 on the gauge (as opposed to 1.80, the reading corresponding to the prescribed lake level).



Winter Visit

On the morning of February 11 Diane and Ronnie Brown had quite a surprise when they opened their bedroom blind. This sleepy but beautiful red fox was burrowed in the snow at the base of a blue spruce between their place and their nearby red cabin. According to Diane she could not get much accomplished that day, because the fox kept coming back and Diane kept watching for her. Who says that winters around here are boring?!

Annual Meeting Agenda* Saturday June 26, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Homestead Township Hall in Honor

Call to Order: Ronnie Brown
Secretary's Report: Minutes of '09 Annual Meeting
Treasurer's Report: Membership and Finances
Water Level Report: Lynn Walker
Water Quality Report: Dave Van Hammen
Fishery Report: Ronnie Brown
MLSA Plant Mapping: Gretchen Staub
Web Site: Keith Farley
New Business: Election of 5 directors for 2010-2011
Program: John Ester on **The Birds of Little Platte Lake**, featuring photos taken within the LPLA membership area.

***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.**

Family Planning at Little Platte Lake

In May all sorts of birds and animals are in the process of expanding their families. But what about the eagles and loons for whom we have such high hopes? As you will hear in greater detail at the annual meeting, there was a changing of the guard at the eagles' nest, and the new occupants have one rapidly growing chick.

Again this year the loons have spurned our nesting platform but have built a nest at their old location (pictured below). By the time of our meeting we will know whether the loons have produced a chick for the first time in five or six years.



Highlights: June 20, 2009 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 20 at the Homestead Township Hall in Honor. Brett Fessell, Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, provided an update on improvements to the Platte River Watershed under an EPA grant. In partnership with the Conservation Resource Alliance and numerous other groups, the Tribe has removed a temporary dam and made other improvements along the Platte River in Honor. Next on the agenda is replacing culverts in Otter Creek within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore with a wooden bridge. Mr. Fessell also answered numerous questions about the fishery at Little Platte Lake based on the survey he took at the lake in 2007.

Members learned what the Association has accomplished since last year's meeting. LPLA monitors the water level of the lake in relation to that ordered by the Benzie County Court, and plant mapping efforts are continuing. LPLA is observing the water testing done by the Platte Lake Improvement Association at three locations in Little Platte Lake. The bald eagles are still on the lake but apparently have built a new nest in an unknown location. The loons came back but eschewed the floating nesting platform installed for their convenience.

The Board announced that members around the lake had agreed to serve as monitors for boat safety. While anyone spotting a boater in distress should still call 911, the monitors should be able to assist in pinpointing the trouble when law enforcement officers arrive on the scene.

The members elected directors to serve on the Board until next year's meeting: Ronnie Brown, Gretchen Staub, John Ester, Lynn Walker and Dave Van Hammen.



GTB Biologist Brett Fessell reports on improvements to the watershed.



Directors John Ester, Lynn Walker, Gretchen Staub, Ronnie Brown, Dave Van Hammen

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

