

Little Platte Lake Association

May 2011 Newsletter

Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 25!

Once again there are compelling reasons to attend our annual membership meeting. This year's meeting will be on Saturday, June 25 at 10:00 a.m. **at a new location: the Lake Township Hall on M-22.**

Get the Latest in Lake News

As usual we will have reports on everything from water levels to invasive species to fish stories to a report on wildlife such as the Ring-necked Duck pictured at the right. Greet your neighbors from around the lake and hear their latest bear stories.



Get LPLA Apparel

We have a few shirts and hats left over from last year that will be available for purchase.

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. While all of the existing Board members are running for reelection, 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 Alien Species

Our featured speaker will be Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore Biologist (and local resident) Amanda Brushaber. Amanda will talk about alien plants that could threaten our lake. Learn what we should do.

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 to let Keith know if you have a photo to share.

2011: The Year of the Bear?

Last year's meeting included a report on the bear (pictured on page 3) that made himself at home at Dunes Edge last spring. As expected, by the end of June the bear was no longer a problem. But in November when he should have been fast asleep, our friend (or one of his ursine colleagues) paid a return visit. Then in March—again when a bear should be slumbering away—a bear began hitting local feeders. In April and May the visits escalated at Dunes Edge and Sylvan Point, with the bear not only hitting bird feeders but also hitting dumpsters and leaving paw prints (among other things) on decks. Eventually the DNR set a trap and on May 16 trapped a bear at Sylvan Point. Was this the one and only bear causing all the fuss? Come to the annual meeting and find out!

Gretchen McArthur's Coating for Pike or Panfish

1 cup flour
2 tsp paprika
1 tsp garlic powder

Mix together in plastic bag, add fish and shake to coat.
Fry in canola oil until brown on both sides. Salt to taste.



Monitoring the Lake Level

Responding to complaints about the lake level Lynn Walker and Ronnie Brown checked the dam on May 6 and found that the water was at 1.55 on the gauge—well below the court ordered 1.8. On May 9 Ronnie requested the Drain Commissioner to add a board to the dam. While the level rose following rainfall, at press time Ronnie was still pursuing the board issue with Terry Money.

Annual Meeting Agenda* Saturday June 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Lake Township Hall on M-22

Call to Order: Ronnie Brown
Secretary's Report: Minutes of 2010 Annual Meeting
Treasurer's Report: Membership and Finances
Water Level Report: Lynn Walker
Water Quality Report: Dave Van Hammen
Wildlife Report: John Ester
Fishery Report: Ronnie Brown
MLSA Plant Mapping: Gretchen Staub
Web Site: Keith Farley
New Business: Election of 5 directors for 2010-2011
Program: Amanda Brushaber, Biologist at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

***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 26, 2010 Annual Meeting at Homestead Twp Hall
(The Minutes are posted in their entirety on the LPLA website)

Members of the Little Platte Lake Association met on June 26 at the Homestead Township Hall in Honor to hear about the state of the lake and to elect directors. Since last year's meeting the Association has operated in the black. LPLA continues to monitor the lake's water level in relation to that ordered by the Benzie County Circuit Court, and plant mapping continues. LPLA is observing the water testing done by the Platte Lake Improvement Association at three locations in Little Platte Lake. The fishing reports were positive, both with regard to bass and as to the northern pike whose size seemed to increase as the discussion went on.

Following the election of directors John Ester of Benzie Audubon gave a PowerPoint program on the birds of Little Platte Lake. Members learned of the fate of the loons (back on the lake but with no offspring) and the eagles (still here with a recently-fledged chick). Animals were not ignored in the presentation, which included raccoon, bobcat and red fox photos, as well as Don Franck's photo below of the black bear that was a regular visitor at Dunes Edge and Sylvan Point in May and June. Members added their own bear observations.

Minutes of the meeting and further information about LPLA can be found at www.littleplattelake.org.



Don Franck's photo of a frequent spring visitor at Dunes Edge



Directors John Ester, Gretchen Staub, Lynn Walker, 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

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|------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 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

