



### **Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 23!**

Once again there are compelling reasons to attend our annual membership meeting. This year's meeting will be on **Saturday, June 23 at 10:00 a.m. at 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 annoying airplanes to fish stories to a report on wildlife such as the Great Egret pictured below. Greet your neighbors from around the lake and hear what the Benzie Conservation District is doing on water quality issues.

#### **Vote on Bylaw Changes and Elect Directors**

Under our present Bylaws the Board is made up of five Directors, all of whom are elected at our Annual Meeting for one-year terms. The Directors among themselves then elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Trustees. **The Board has concluded that to ensure continuity on the Board and to provide a level playing field for anyone running for the Board, Directors should be elected for staggered two-year terms. In addition, it seems more sensible to have candidates run for specific Board positions and to be elected as such by Association members rather than by the Board. Finally, the Board proposes to change the fiscal year provision of our Bylaws to conform to the Board-approved (and IRS-approved) fiscal year of June 1 – May 31.**

At its recent meeting the Board approved these changes, to become effective as of the 2013 Annual Meeting if approved by the membership. Everyone is urged to review the specific wording as posted on the Association website at [www.littleplattelake.org](http://www.littleplattelake.org) and then to vote on the proposed revisions at the Annual meeting or by proxy using the form within the renewal envelope.

#### **Something Fishy?**

At last year's meeting there was concern over a fish die-off that had recently occurred on the lake. Ronnie Brown took a dead fish into the DNR in Traverse City for analysis and finally received the results. Their examination reflected no disease, and their conclusion was that the fish was the victim of a typical "spring fish kill," a natural phenomenon.

#### **Time to Renew!**

LPLA membership dues run from June 1 through May 31. That means it's time to renew your membership. **For everyone's convenience we have enclosed with this newsletter a self-addressed return envelope that also serves as a renewal form and proxy. Just complete the form, enclose your check, stamp the envelope and drop it in the mail.**



### **You Can Help with the Flip of a Switch!**

Several years ago the Michigan Lakes & Streams Associations made a recommendation on night lighting that bears repeating. Here is the gist of it: Water is very reflective, so any light hitting it scatters over a large distance. When property owners along the shore use outside lights to enhance their view of the water or for perceived security needs, the lights can be seen all over the lake. Not only can this interfere with everyone else's enjoyment of the nighttime serenity of the lake, it also can do environmental harm--prohibiting small invertebrates from feeding on lake algae after dark and thus contributing to excess algae growth.

There are simple measures that we all can take to address this issue, the first being to simply turn off lights that shine near the water. If lights are essential, use only low-wattage lights that shine directly on the ground beneath them. These steps will save energy, help our natural inhabitants maintain their lifestyles and keep our neighbors across the lake happy!

### **The Search for Buried Treasure**

Last summer a mostly-submerged metal dock section was seen in the lake in the area where one of our members had run into something with his pontoon boat. The object was too heavy to remove, but was marked for later retrieval. LPLA ultimately offered a \$50 reward for the removal of the object, but by that time the milk-jug marker was gone. A new pair from Dunes Edge found and removed an aluminum step-ladder, but the dock section seemed to have disappeared. Now it turns out that a good Samaritan from Ash Ave. who had initially spotted and marked the dock piece had removed it over Labor Day!

### **Monitoring the Lake Level**

Last year many of us were concerned about low lake levels and the County's failure to add boards to the dam in a timely fashion. This year boards were added in early April, and that—coupled with spring showers—brought the lake level on May 7 to 2.0 on the gauge, well above the court-mandated 1.8.

### **Annual Meeting Agenda\*** **Saturday June 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.** **Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order: Ronnie Brown  
Program: Mike Jones, Benzie Conservation District  
Secretary's Report: Minutes of 2011 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  
Web Site: Keith Farley  
New Business:  
    Amendment of Bylaws  
    Election of 5 directors for 2010-2011

**\*Any member wishing to add an item to the Agenda should advise any Board member ASAP. Check our website at [www.littleplattlake.org](http://www.littleplattlake.org) for any last minute Agenda changes.**

**Highlights: June 25, 2011 Annual Meeting at Homestead Twp Hall**  
(The Minutes are posted in their entirety on the LPLA website)

LPLA members met to hear about the state of the lake and to elect directors. A subject of major concern was the level of the lake—well below the level mandated by the Benzie County Circuit Court. The factors blamed for the problem were the small amount of precipitation in the winter and spring and the failure of the Drain Commissioner to add boards to the Deadstream dam. While members suggested various solutions, the consensus was that no one can dictate the weather, but the lake level should be more carefully monitored by the person responsible. The LPLA board will try to see that the lake level is handled responsibly.

Another issue addressed by the Board was the recent fish die-off. Members were referred to a DNR website that lists possible reasons for such a die-off. In the meantime, recently-dead fish from the lake have been taken to the DNR office in Traverse City for analysis.

Following the election of Directors, Amanda Brushaber, a biologist for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and LPLA member, explained how plants are determined to be “invasive” and why it is important to control them. Since it is up to all of us to protect the beautiful area we call home, she encouraged members to do their homework regarding invasives, share their treatments and results, and be persistent.



Speaker Amanda Brushaber



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

**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	<a href="mailto:twinbirchresort@yahoo.com">twinbirchresort@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary:	Gretchen Staub	325-0077	<a href="mailto:gretstaub@centurytel.net">gretstaub@centurytel.net</a>
Treasurer:	John Ester	325-2445	<a href="mailto:jester625@earthlink.net">jester625@earthlink.net</a>
Trustee:	Dave Van Hammen	325-2170	<a href="mailto:daud@maui.net">daud@maui.net</a>
Trustee:	Lynn Walker	325-6654	<a href="mailto:walkerlonnie2003@yahoo.com">walkerlonnie2003@yahoo.com</a>

**Visit our web site at: [www.littleplattelake.org](http://www.littleplattelake.org)**

